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The Genesis of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania

Its Aborigines, Explorers, Early Settlement and Development, Indian Wars and The Revolution, and Formation as a County.

Gleaned from Official Documents.

by

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and

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Lewistown, Pennsylvania
1939

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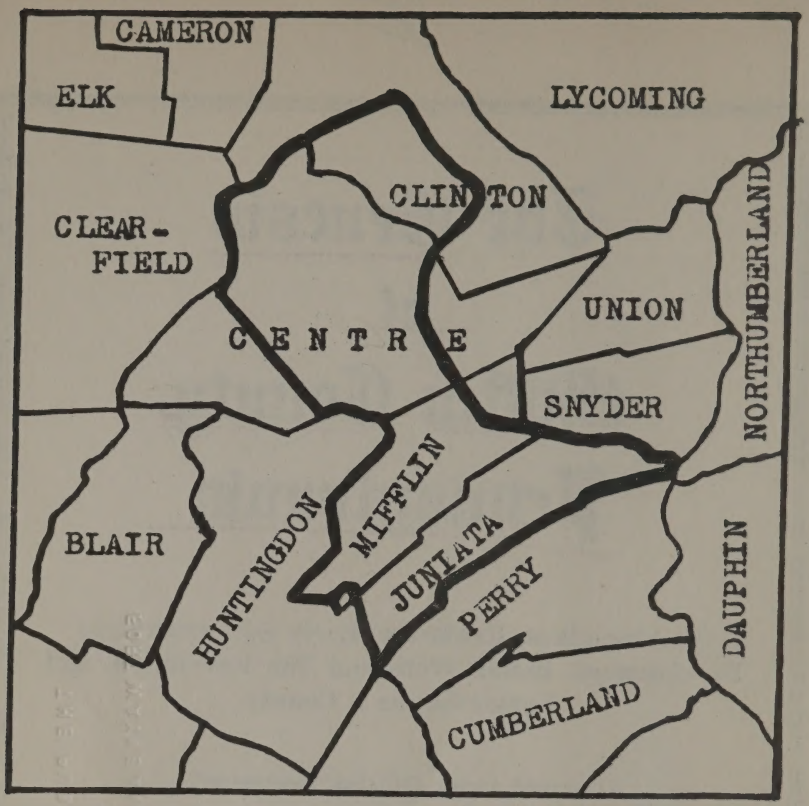

In the map above the heavy line shows Mifflin County as it was erected in 1789, including all of present Juniata County and portions of Centre and Clinton counties. A portion of the northeastern part of the present county was not included as was a small section at the southern corner, while a small part of Huntingdon County at the southwestern corner was in the original Mifflin County.

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INTRODUCTION

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The only history of Mifflin County that has ever been published was that by Cochran in 1879. In it the entire period from 1750 to 1879 was covered. During recent years the authors have found many unpublished facts relating to the colonial period. Realizing that the history of the period from 1750 to 1790 had never been adequately written, they began about five years ago to make a thorough search of all the records at Carlisle, Harrisburg, and Washington. The assessment, land, and pension records were found to be especially valuable.

It is fortunate that all the tax lists from the first in 1767 until 1789, when Mifflin County was formed, are still preserved at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The authors made a search of these records and gleaned many interesting facts from them. Particular attention was paid to separating the unseated from the seated lands, so that a correct list of actual inhabitants could be obtained. An alphabetical list of all the taxables in Mifflin County from 1767 to 1789 was made.

At Harrisburg the files of applications for warrants in the Department of Internal Affairs were searched. Much of these data have never been published or copied. The applications for all the Mifflin County warrants were checked, using as a basis a warrantee map of the county, which the authors have in their possession. These applications gave two valuable types of information as to the early settlement of the county. Many of the applications told of cabins or improvements on the tracts. In other cases if the land had been occupied for some time, the fact was indicated on the application, stating that the quit rent should begin from the date of first improvement. So for the first time, Mifflin County's early settlers can be determined.

Throughout the history the authors have used the term "Mifflin County" to refer to that territory now embraced by the county, although during the period covered by the history it was a part of Cumberland County. The term "Juniata Valley" is used in connection with that part of Mifflin County lying along the Juniata River.

The Penna. Archives give a list of 500 men who served in the militia from Mifflin County during the Revolution. At Washington a search was made for pension applications of these men. It was found that in the 1830's about 50 of them applied for pensions. These men, before a notary, gave detailed accounts of their services in the Revolution. For the first time Mifflin County's part in the War can be told. It was

interesting to find two men who lived in different parts of the country and had not seen each other for half a century, agreeing even in the details of their tours against the British and the Indians.

The early settlers of Mifflin County were practically all Scotch-Irish. For this reason the records of the Donegal Presbytery were searched thoroughly and many interesting facts were found which tell of the county's early days. The facts given by Beatty and Fithian in their journals were used extensively. The three versions of Beatty's journal are quoted for the first time. New data from the French angle of the taking of Fort Granville are presented. Interesting genealogical facts about Mifflin County's early families are published for the first time.

The residents of Mifflin County were particularly fortunate because there was no loss of life in the 1755-58, 1763-64, and 1777-82 Indian Wars. Only the burning of Fort Granville is recorded, and the people in it were soldiers or settlers from other counties. Mifflin County had no massacres, in striking contrast to Juniata, Perry, Cumberland, Franklin, Huntingdon, Centre, Snyder, and Union Counties. In 1755 and in 1763 no attempt was made to defend their homes; and by 1777 their defense was strong enough to ward off the Indians.

Two of Pennsylvania's outstanding Indians lived in the County at different periods. Logan, a Mingo, was in the Kishacoquillas Valley 1766 to 1771. Kishacoquillas and twenty families lived at Ohesson (Lewistown) from the 1720's to the 1750's. Both men were noted for their friendly attitude toward the whites.

Mifflin County is this year celebrating the sesqui-centennial of its formation. The approach of this significant date in the history of the county led the authors to determine on 1939 as the time for the publication of this history. Believing that the many interesting facts they had learned of the genesis of the county should be shared, these facts are herewith presented with the hope that they will enlighten, inspire and entertain others as they have

J. M. S. and R. M. B.

January 1, 1939.

CHAPTER 1—BEFORE THE WHITE MAN

Wild roved an Indian girl,
Bright Alfarata,
Where swept the waters
Of the Blue Juniata . . .

From The Blue Juniata
By Mrs. Marion Dix Sullivan

The scene opens with two beautiful valleys in Central Pennsylvania. Through one flows the Juniata River. The other is a complete unit with entrance only through gaps. It is drained by Kishacoquillas Creek.

Most of the land in the two valleys is heavily wooded with the exception of a few open meadows and "barrens," and on the latter the growth is smaller than in the surrounding forest. Indian paths give access to the two valleys, supplementing the streams as "highways" of the wilderness. The section is used for hunting, although the Indians do not reside there. The Iroquois call the region the best hunting ground for elk, deer and beaver in the far-flung empire they rule as the Six Nations. The time is the last quarter of the 17th century.

The Standing Stone People

Before the dawn of recorded history there lived in the region of the Juniata Valley a people who were known to the very early explorers by various names, although there is no record of a white man ever having passed through their territory. Captain John Smith on his map drawn after an exploration up the Chesapeake in 1608 called them "Attaocks." However, his only knowledge was from what he learned from other tribes. Later they were designated as "Iottecas," in 1648 as "Ihon a Does" and in 1655 as the "Onojutta" tribe, all of these names finally crystalizing into Juniata. They were of Iroquois stock, the "Standing Stone People," whose tribal emblem was the beacon stone. They lived in Pennsylvania as contemporaries of the Susquehanna Indians who resided farther to the east. Tradition tells of a 10-year war between the Pennsylvania Indians and the Mohawks of New York in which the Mohawks were nearly exterminated. In 1640 the Dutch began to sell firearms to the Iroquois. The tables were turned for this started a military conquest in which the Mohawks destroyed the Juniatas, while the Susquehannas were conquered about 1675. When William Penn came, the Iroquois claimed all the interior of Pennsylvania by right of conquest. This claim was always recognized by Penn, for the region was then an empty interior used only for hunting. (Professor A. L. Guss, History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valley, pp. 30-34).

Other Tribes Come

Later, 1713 to 1730, the Tuscaroras, Delawares and Shawnees, were allowed to occupy the region. When the Delawares came into the region they used the name Juniata for the river, but when they found it localized at Huntingdon, where tradition has it the Juniata's beacon stone was located, they translated it Standing Stone.

When the whites came, the forests on the Juniata's cornfields were only partly grown and were sometimes mistaken for barrens because the trees were small. In other cases their cleared "meadow land" was eagerly sought by the settlers.

That there were open cleared spaces and "barrens," when the first settlers came, which may have been the former cornfields of the Juniatas, is attested to from several sources. When Archibald Cambridge warranted land in what is now Menno Township Sept. 22, 1766, it was described as "adjoining open barrens known by the name of 'The Glades.'" This land was near the present White Hall.

Fithian (Journal p. 107) in describing the Kishacoquillas Valley in 1775, wrote: "The Land is, almost all arable, and will well support two l a r g e Societies (congregations).

There are indeed large Plains, or as the Inhabitants call them, Glades. quite bare of timber, & covered with Shrubs, Ground-Oak, Hazles, &C."

The Tuscaroras

Following the Juniatas the Tuscaroras were the next tribe to acquire a habitat in the Juniata Valley. They were driven from their home in North Carolina in 1713 and took refuge in the Juniata Valley under the protection of the Five Nations. September 20, 1714, an Iroquois chief told Governor Hunter of New York: "We acquaint you that the Tuscarora Indians are come to shelter themselves among the Five Nations. They were of us, and went from us long ago, and are now returned and promise to live peaceably among us." In 1722 or 1723 the Tuscaroras were admitted to the Iroquois Confederacy, and, with the tribes formerly in the confederation, Mohawks, Senecas, Cayugas, Onondagas, and Oneidas, formed the Six Nations. The Tuscaroras on their way north did not come into what is now Mifflin County, but gave their name to a Juniata County mountain, creek, and valley where they had a village for a time.

The Delawares

About 1720 the Iroquois conquered the Delawares and assumed active control over them. As early as 1724 the Delawares started migration west. Their first town built on this migration was Kittanning. The Delaware or Lenape, "Real Men," were of a warlike disposition; their best known representative in this region was Captain Jacobs, who is said to have resided at the site of Lewistown at one time. His principal claim to attention by local historians was the fact that he led the Indians who came with the French in 1756 and captured Fort Granville.

Captain Jacobs

Captain Jacobs was of the Munsee, or Wolf Clan of the Delawares, considered the most warlike of the three divisions of this tribe of the Algonquin family of Indians. According to tradition he resided at Ohesson, or Kishacoquillas Town, when Arthur Buchanan first arrived on the scene about 1754. C. Hale Sipe in his "The Indian Wars of Pennsylvania," p. 268, says that this Delaware chief who took up arms against the English soon after Braddock's defeat, resided at one time near Lewistown and sold lands to Buchanan, who gave him the name Captain Jacobs because of his resemblance to a settler in the Cumberland Valley. Jacobs' Indian name is not given by any of the historians who have written of him.

Other historians say that Buchanan acquired his land from Chief Pokety and tradition gives the name Poketytown to the Indian village which had been established at the mouth of Kishacoquillas Creek by Chief Kishacoquillas and known variously as Ohesson, Kishacoquillas' Town, and Old Town. However, Pokety's name is not found in any histories of the Indians of that time and only one person, Dr. Samuel Maclay, in an address delivered in 1879, ventured to state that Jacobs and Pokety were one and the same Indian.

The Shawnees

The third tribe permitted to settle in the Juniata Valley by the Iroquois was the Shawnee, whose name meant "Southerners." This branch of the Algonquin family in 1670 were in two bodies, one in Tennessee and the other in South Carolina. Those of South Carolina started to migrate north in 1690 and by 1694 the first had reached Eastern Pennsylvania. Those from Tennessee settled in Western Pennsylvania. The Shawnees in Eastern Pennsylvania soon started west and during their migration through the State established villages on the Juniata.

Chief Kishacoquillas and Ohesson

One of these villages was Ohesson which existed for possibly a quarter of a century under Chief Kishacoquillas at the mouth of the creek which bears his name. Certainly Kishacoquillas shares with Logan, the Mingo Chief, the distinction of being one of the two outstanding Indians who honored Mifflin County with their residence during its early exploration and settlement by the whites.

The first written record of landmarks of the Juniata Valley is the reference to Ohesson made by the traders, James LeTort and Jonah Davenport, in their affidavit taken October 29, 1731, concerning the operations of Cavalier, French agent, who was gaining the good will of the Shawnees by taking their leading men to Montreal and sending gunsmiths to repair their rifles. His activities alarmed the provincial authorities who sought from the two Indian traders information concerning the Indian villages to the west.

Their affidavit described the first Indian village along the Juniata above its mouth as follows:

"Ohesson upon Choniata (Juniata), dist. from Sasqueh. 60 miles; Shawanese, 20 Fam., 60 Men, (Chief) Kissikahquelas."

They also described: "Assumepachla upon Choniata, dist. about 100 miles by water and 50 by land from Ohesson; Delawares, 12 Fam., 36 men." This was at Frankstown, Blair County. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, vol.1,p.302)

Ohesson was a good sized Indian village at that time with a population of more than 100. How long it existed before 1731 cannot be determined with certainty but it is safe to assume that Kishacoquillas had lived there 10 years previous to that date. The name Kishacoquillas is said to mean "The snakes are already in their dens."

The next reference to this venerated chief of the Shawnees is also to be found in the Colonial Records, vol.4,p.347, when Aug. 1, 1739 "Kaashawkaghquillas" (Kishacoquillas) with other Shawanese chiefs was called to a conference at Philadelphia by provincial authorities who realized the French were rapidly winning them over. The Shawnees promised not to join any other nation provided the rum traffic among them by the traders was stopped.

Kishacoquillas never wavered in his friendship for the English and is said by tradition to have been very friendly with Arthur Buchanan. However, it is probable that he had removed from this section before Buchanan's coming. The time of his leaving is uncertain but at the time of his death in Aug. 1754 he was living along the Susquehanna, at Capt. McKee's near Sunbury. (Colonial Records, vol.6,p.153) Lewis Evans' map of 1749 shows an Indian village at the mouth of Kishacoquillas Creek which he names "Kishequoehkeles." Whether the old chief was still residing there, or, whether the village there was simply known by his name, cannot be determined.

The letter by Governor Robert H. Morris to the sons of Kishacoquillas found in Colonial Records, vol.6,p.421, gives an indication of the high regard in which he was held by the provincial authorities.

The "Sons of Kishycoquillas" by John "Shickcalamy" notified the Governor of the death of their father. Before his death the Chief had sent a letter to Governor Hamilton assuring him of his love to the Province and sending a small present of skins. Their father was an exceeding good friend of the English and well respected. Gov. Morris on June 13, 1756 wrote:

"To the Sons of Kishycoquillas, the late Shawonese Chief, deceased:

—I heartily condole with You on the Loss of your aged Father, and mingle my Tears with yours, which, however, I wou'd now have You to wipe away with the Handkerchiefs herewith sent. As a Testimony of the Love the Proprietaries and this Government retain for the Family of Kishycoquillas, You will be pleased to accept of the Present which is delivered to John Shick Calamy for your Use."

There is little record of the 1740's except for the murder of John (Jack) Armstrong, a trader, April 9, 1744, by a Delaware Indian near the present site of Mount Union. Jacks Mountain is said to have been named for Armstrong but it may have been named for the legendary "Captain Jack."

Following the leaving of Kishacoquillas and the possible short residence here of Captain Jacobs, Mifflin County was to see only roving bands of Indians until the Red Man passed forever from this vicinity, with but one exception, Logan the Mingo Chief, who for a time graced the Kishacoquillas Valley.

Fithian Encounters Indians

Rev. Philip Fithian on his missionary journey through the Kishacoquillas Valley in 1775 saw no Indians, although they were common in the Susquehanna Valley, Buffalo Valley and in Penns Valley through which he had just passed. However, no matter what their manner toward him, they were "heathenish savages" and he frequently expressed his alarm and disgust with their manners and habits. At one place along Bald Eagle Creek he and his companions came upon an Indian camp fire near which hung half a deer which was still warm. The companion wrapped the venison in his surtout and rode on, while Fithian was in mortal fear of an ambush. They soon came upon two Indians, but were not molested. At the next stop two Indian boys bolted in, without speaking or knocking, and presented seven large fish in return for which the host gave them some of the venison Fithian's companion had "found" along the trail, which, "when it was a little roasted, they bit it off in great Mouthfuls, and devoured it with the greatest Rapacity." (Journal of Philip Vickers Fithian, p. 81,82).

Logan, The Mingo Chief

The Immortal Logan, son of Shikellamy, the great Iroquois vice-gerent, and for five years a resident of the Kishacoquillas Valley, was mistaken when he closed his famous oration, delivered in Ohio in 1774, with the words: "Who is there to mourn for Logan? Not one." There were those then and many more since who mourned the downfall of the great Mingo Chief and could but place the blame on the white man who murdered his family and on their whiskey to which he turned to make him forget his sorrow.

According to tradition Logan, with his father, Shikellamy, visited Chief Kishacoquillas at his village, and was so much attracted to the country that years later, 1766, he came to make his home in the Kishacoquillas Valley where he lived for five years, the close friend of Squire William Brown and other early settlers. Logan was the second of Shikellamy's sons, his Indian name being Taghahjute, or Sayughdowa. He was given the English name of James Logan by his father for James Logan, provincial secretary. His older brother, Taghueghdoarus, was called John Shikellamy and at the father's death for a short time succeeded to his title and authority. A third son was named John Petty and their sister was the wife of Cajadies, who died in 1747.

Chief Logan was born near Auburn, N.Y., in 1725 and when he was three years old the father was sent to Milton and later to Sunbury to rule over that section of the Six Nations' territory as vice-gerent. He was loyal to the English during the French and Indian War and was a close friend of Conrad Weiser and Andrew Montour. It was at the close of the Pontiac War that Logan moved to the Kishacoquillas Valley where he erected a cabin near a spring which was destroyed in recent years. It was on the east side of Tea Creek just above the mill at Reedsville.

The Meeting of Logan and Brown

Here he hunted and sold the dressed skins of his game to settlers. The story of his first meeting with William Brown is one of the classic traditions of Mifflin County's early history. The story was told to R. P. Maclay by Squire Brown many years afterward and is revealed in a letter written March 21, 1842, by Maclay which was printed in the Pittsburgh Daily American. This letter in part was as follows:

" . . . The person surprised at the spring, now called Big Spring, and about four miles west of Logan's Spring was William Brown . . . I will give you the anecdote as I heard it related by Judge Brown himself while on a visit to my brother, who then owned and occupied Big Spring farm, four miles west of Reedsville:

" 'The first time I ever saw that spring, my brother, James Reed, and myself, had wandered out of the valley in search of land, and finding it very good, we were looking about for springs. About a mile from this we started a bear, and separated to get a shot at him. I was traveling along, looking about on the rising ground for the bear, when I came suddenly upon the spring; and being

dry, and more rejoiced to find so fine a spring than to have killed a dozen bears, I set my rifle against a bush and rushed down the bank and laid down to drink. Upon putting my head down, I saw reflected in the water, on the opposite side, the shadow of a tall Indian. I sprang to my rifle, when the Indian gave a yell, whether for peace or war I was not just then sufficiently master of my faculties to determine; but upon my seizing my rifle, and facing him, he knocked out the pan of his gun, threw out the priming, and extended his open palm toward me in token of friendship. After putting down our guns, we again met at the spring and shook hands. This was Logan—the best specimen of humanity I ever met with, either **white** or **red.** He could speak a little English, and told me there was another white hunter a little way down the stream and offered to guide me to his camp. There I first met your father (Samuel Maclay). We remained together in the valley a week, looking for springs and selecting lands—' ".

Then comes a story of visiting Logan at his camp at Logan's spring, where Logan and Maclay shot mark. Logan's "hut" is mentioned. Logan proved to be a gentleman of the first order.

" 'The next year I (William Brown) brought my wife up and camped under a big walnut tree, on the bank of Tea Creek, until I had built a cabin near where the mill now stands, and have lived in the valley ever since. Poor Logan soon after went into the Allegheny, and I never saw nim again.' " As William Brown was married in 1767, the meeting between Brown and Logan probably took place in 1766.

Logan's Spring, Where?

The dispute over the location of Logan's Spring is unwarranted. There were two springs connected with the story of Logan in the Kishacoquillas Valley, as the first part of R. P. Maclay's letter quoted above indicated very clearly. One was near Logan's cabin on the north bank of Tea Creek not far from where William Brown later built his mill on the site of the present Reedsville mill. This was the true Logan Spring. However, it had nothing to do with meeting of Logan and Brown which was at a spring four miles west, later called Big Spring. It is located north of the Reedsville-Belleville highway near Alexander Springs.

The story of Logan making moccasins for little Mary Brown, daughter of Squire Brown and later wife of James Potter Jr., is another of the traditions of Logan's stay in the valley. Mary Brown was born June 17, 1770, so that she was learning to walk in 1771. This story is recorded as follows:

"When a sister of Mrs. Norris (afterwards Mrs. Gen. Potter) was just beginning to learn to walk, her mother happened to express her regret that she could not get a pair of shoes to give more firmness to her little step. Logan stood by, and said nothing. He soon after asked Mrs. Brown to let the little girl go up and spend the day at his cabin. The cautious heart of the mother was alarmed at such a proposition; but she knew the delicacy of an Indian's feelings—and she knew Logan too—and with secret reluctance, but apparent cheerfulness, she complied with his request. The hours of the day wore very slowly away, and it was nearly night, when her little one had not returned. But just as the sun was going down, the trusty chief was seen coming down the path with his charge; and in a moment more the little one trotted into her mother's arms, proudly exhibiting a beautiful pair of moccasins on her little feet—the product of Logan's skill." (Day: Historical Collections of Pennsylvania, p. 468)

Indian Trails

While Mifflin County had but one Indian village when the first explorers passed through, it soon became familiar ground to the traders for they followed the Indian paths, several of which converged at points in the county. In all probability, these paths were those of the Juniatas and the ones later used by the Delawares and Shawnees when they had their habitat along the Juniata.

Perhaps the most important of these Indian trails was the one known as Juniata Path, later called the Traders' Path, a portion of which was called the Fort Granville Road

after the destruction of that fort.

Hanna's "Wilderness Trail," p.247, describes the Juniata path as having a number of feeders to its starting point near the mouth of the Juniata, from where it led up the north side of the river and "through valleys and over mountains to what is now Lewistown." It is likely that the main trail, instead of following the river through the Narrows, went up Licking Creek and came through Granville Gap to join the Juniata River again. From Lewistown it continued west along the river to Jacks Narrows where, near Mount Union, it joined the path leading from Harris' Ferry (Harrisburg), via Aughwick, to the west. This path was best known by the name of Kittanning Trail or Allegheny Path and crossed the Alleghenies near Kittanning Point in Blair County.

Crossing the Juniata Path near Port Royal or Mifflintown was another important Indian trail, known as the Tuscarora Path from the fact that the Tuscaroras used it in traveling north through the State to join the Iroquois in New York. It was also called the Shamokin Path and led from the Susquehanna River at Shamokin (Sunbury). It passed through Richfield, crossed the Juniata near Port Royal and led up the Tuscarora Valley, crossing over into Path Valley and to the Potomac near Harpers Ferry.

The Juniata Path was one of the leading trails from the seaboard to the Ohio country and over it in 1742 passed the Delaware Indians on their way to a council at Philadelphia. It was used by the early traders, LeTort and Davenport, who were familiar with Ohesson, the Shawnee village on this path. From its use by the traders it became known as Traders' Path and is so mentioned in several applications for land, including those of Henry Deyarmond, 1773, near the site of Fort Granville; Joseph Ward, 1766, whose land at Strodes Mills was on "both sides of Traders' Path," while Hugh Brown's tract was "above the Trading Path," the last named tract being located in the vicinity of Atkinsons Mills. Early land applications mention "Mathana Cabbins" near the present Mattawana. These may have been traders' cabins along the "Traders' Path."

An early map of Fort Granville shows a trail passing from the fort through Granville Gap in Blue Mountain and across Licking, Tuscarora and Shermans Valleys to Carlisle.

Another Indian trail, not often mentioned by historians, but named in land applications of 1766 and 1767, was called by these early settlers "the war path to Fort Augusta (Sunbury)." It led up Jacks Creek and along Shade Mountain into Snyder County and to Sunbury. Gotfret Clyne, who warranted land at Maitland in 1767, described it as being near the "Warriors' Path," and James Magill, who took up land in 1766 in the vicinity of Wagner stated that it was bounded by the "war path to Fort Augusta." Another name for the same trail was "Moghanoy Road" mentioned by Henry Cunningham who took up land in 1762 in the vicinity of Alfarata. The same name is mentioned by Thomas Holt in connection with a tract he applied for on Jacks Creek. "Moghanoy" was an early name for Middle Creek, Snyder County.

Beyond a doubt another trail led along Kishacoquillas Creek into the valley of the same name, although no reference is made to such a trail by historians.

These Indian trails—"highways of the wilderness"—were succeeded by the traders' paths and they in turn by the stage roads, the beginning of a highway system which was at first a network of toll roads and has finally evolved into the concrete and macadam thoroughfares of today.

Thus as the scene closes the Indian who blazed the trails has passed from the picture, even the trader has passed westward to better trading grounds on the ever receding frontier and settlers have taken possession of every acre of the land which comprised the Iroquois' prized hunting ground.

Fleeting years have borne away
The voice of Alfarata;
Still sweeps the river on—
Blue Juniata.

From The Blue Juniata
By Mrs. Dorothy Dix Sullivan

CHAPTER 2—THE FIRST SETTLERS

There's no sense in going further—it's the edge of cultivation,
So they said, and I believed it—broke my land and sowed my crop—
Built my barns and strung my fences in the little border station
Tucked away below the foothills where the trails run out and stop.

From The Explorer
By Rudyard Kipling

From 1731, when the traders LeTort and Davenport reported the existence of the Shawnee village of Kishacoquillas, whom they had visited on their trading expeditions along the Juniata until 1754 no documentary evidence has been found to indicate that any permanent settlement was made in what is now Mifflin County. There may have been exploration into the territory during the latter part of this period by those seeking land and anticipating purchase from the Indians of the section lying beyond the boundaries of the Purchase of 1736. Even the land-hungry and venturesome Scotch-Irish were held back from settling on land in this part of the Juniata Valley by the stern measures adopted by the provincial authorities to keep squatters from occupying Indian lands not yet purchased. About 1750 a number of such squatters were evicted from what is now Juniata County and their cabins burned. The same occurred in the Aughwick Valley and gave the name to Burnt Cabins.

The Albany Purchase

At Albany on July 6, 1754, Thomas and Richard Penn paid 400 pounds New York money to the Six Nations for a large extent of land west of the Susquehanna River and north of the purchase of 1736 and known as the Albany Purchase. In September of that year the Indians gave notice at Aughwick that they had not understood the western extent of the purchase and the western boundary was later changed and the balance purchased in 1758. However, none of this disputed area included Mifflin County and in the late Summer of 1754 settlers began coming into Mifflin County, although the land office was not open for issuing warrants for land in the area, until February 3 of the following year. The same week he purchase was made Captain George Washington was defeated at Fort Necessity and the French and Indian War was about to make trouble for these settlers. Even though rumors of impending trouble may have reached them, they had been waiting so long for opportunities such as afforded by the rich lands of the Juniata and Kishacoquillas Valleys that by late Fall at least four cabins had been erected, two of the settlers had wheat patches planted and seven others had made improvements to the claims they had staked out and were ready to file applications for warrants when the office opened.

Land Office Opens

The land office opened February 3, 1755, and by the end of the month 22 warrants had been issued for land in Mifflin County. By the end of September, 11 additional warrants had been issued. One-half of these warrants had improvements made on them, although it is not likely that any of the men had brought their families. In what is now Mifflin County it is estimated that there were 40 clearings when the first frost of 1755 painted the leaves of the forests surrounding the small patches and cabins. Most of the clearings were located by springs or along streams.

Wheat Patches and Cabins

The following settlers had either established themselves in the county or had made improvements to their land during the late Summer and Fall of 1754, according to information contained in warrants issued in February, 1755:

John Alexander Jr., Union Township, Wheat Patch.
Alexander Torrentine, Menno Township, Wheat Patch.

James Alexander, Union Township, Cabin.

William Alexander, Armagh Township, Cabin.

Greenwood, Union Township, Cabin.

James Sterrett, Armagh Township, Cabin.

James Alexander, Armagh Township, Improvement.

Andrew Bratton, Bratton Township, Improvement.

Arthur Buchanan, Lewistown, Improvement.

Adam Carson, Bratton Township, Improvement.

Everhart Martin, Derry Township, Improvement.

Arthur Forster, Derry Township, Improvement.

Robert Taylor, Brown Township, Improvement.

Hostile Indians Appear

During the Summer of 1755 surveys of warrants issued that year were made in May, June and September. One of the surveyors reported seeing Indians in the Kishacoquillas Valley and his brother, John Armstrong wrote to Gov. Morris: (Carlisle, May 26, 1755) "This day I received a Letter from my Brother (who is laying out some Lands for the Settlers in the New Purchase), giving an account of Three Indians very much painted who have last week robb'd and drove off several Settlers from the Valley of Kishacoquillis. One of the Indians by his skulking Position seemed as if he design'd secretly to have shot, but the White Man discovering him escaped. They took three Horses, three or four Guns, and some Cash. 'Tis said they robb'd another Man up Juniata. Tomorrow I am to set out for Kishacoquillis, there to decide some Controversies." (Colonial Records, vol. 6, p. 403).

In July of that year General Braddock was defeated near Fort Duquesne and the French were encouraged to carry the war into the settlements. On October 16 the first massacres by the Delawares occured at Penns Creek (Snyder County) and on October 31 the Delawares and Shawnees attacked the Great Cove settlement (Franklin County).

The Settlement Deserted

The settlers in Mifflin County decided that discretion was the better part of valor and returned to former homes or took shelter in protected settlements to the east and south. Their investments of time and money in their new homes were slight compared with those of settlers farther east. There an attempt was made to stand by and defend their homes, resulting in fearful massacres in Juniata and Perry Counties.

Fort Granville was erected during December and January of the Winter of 1755-56 and six months later was destroyed by the French and Indians. However, the settlers who had taken refuge there and were either killed or carried off captives were not from Mifflin County but had come from surrounding regions to the west and north.

Eight Came Back Twice

Of the settlers, who, according to the records, had made improvements of some kind on their land in 1754 and 1755, eight are worthy of special mention, for, after having been driven out by the Indians in 1755 and again in 1763 they returned and either they or their descendants were occupying the land in 1789. All eight were men under forty, when they made their first settlement.

Of these Andrew Bratton was the first to make a permanent home in what was Wayne Township, in 1789. He came from Franklin County and warranted land Feb. 10, 1755. In 1766 Rev. Charles Beatty, Presbyterian missionary who preached the first sermons in Mifflin County, stopped at Andrew Bratton's and it was on his farm that the first church was built in that part of the county. Bratton Township was named for him. He died about 1780.

In the part of the county embraced in Derry Township in 1789, Arthur Buchanan was in all probability the first settler. He did not warrant land but when Arthur Forster warranted land in 1755 he mentioned Buchanan as having already settled nearby. Buchanan fled to Carlisle with the other settlers when war broke out and died at Carlisle in 1760 where he owned a town lot and where his

estate papers are on file. His widow, Dorcas Holt Buchanan, returned to Mifflin County and in 1762 warranted the land on which her husband had settled.

Everhart Martin warranted land April 2, 1755, at what is now Yeagertown. He was of German or Hollandish extraction and died in 1784.

Daniel Jones, according to records of the Board of Properties, held land in Granville Township, south of the Juniata River, on which he had made improvements in 1755 and on which he had resided except when driven off two times by the Indians. He died in 1801.

James Alexander, of Nottingham Township, Chester County, had a cabin on his land in Union Township, when it was warranted Feb. 5, 1755. He was the first of this group to establish a home in Kishacoquillas Valley. He died in 1787.

James Alexander, of Paxton Township, Lancaster County, warranted land at Alexander Caverns Feb. 4, 1755, on which he had made improvements. He died in 1778.

William Brown did not warrant land until June 6, 1762, but he paid quit rent from March 1, 1755, indicating that the land had been improved in 1755. It is said that he built a cabin in 1762 and was driven off by the Indians during Pontiac's War. When he returned four years later the cabin was still standing. He died in 1825.

James Reed, said to have been a half-brother of William Brown, was closely associated with him in taking up land in the Kishacoquillas Valley, having warranted his land in Union Township June 3, 1762, paying quit rent from March 1, 1755.

There were two other families who settled and warranted land in 1755, but their names do not appear on the assessment records until 1770, indicating that they did not return immediately after Pontiac's War.

Robert McNitt, father of the five McNitt brothers, improved land in Armagh Township in 1755, but the sons were not assessed until 1770, after the death of the father.

Robert Taylor, father of the five Taylor brothers, improved land in Brown Township in 1755, but the sons were not assessed until 1770, after the death of their father.

Warrantees of 1755

In conclusion, a list of all tracts warranted in 1755 in Mifflin County is given. A number of the men who took out warrants never lived on the land.

Name	Twp.	Date	Acres
Alexander, George	Armagh	Feb. 4, 1755	212
Alexander, James	Armagh	Feb. 4, 1755	571
Alexander, John	Armagh	Feb. 4, 1755	220
Alexander, William	Armagh	Feb. 4, 1755	180
Alexander, James	Union	Feb. 5, 1755	261
Alexander, John Sr.	Union	Feb. 5, 1755	179
Alexander, John Jr.	Union	Feb. 5, 1755	153
Anderson, John	Union	Feb. 5, 1755	107
Armstrong, John	Brown	Feb. 3, 1755	432
Barnes, Barnaby	Wayne	Feb. 4, 1755	317
Bratton, Andrew	Bratton	Feb. 10, 1755	124
Brown, Samuel	Bratton	June 24, 1755	289
Carson, Adam	Bratton	Feb. 10, 1755	70
Coats, Richard	Union	Feb. 5, 1755	256
Forster, Arthur	Derry	Feb. 6, 1755	244
Fulton, William	Derry	Sept. 8, 1755	416
Giltknockey, William	Granville	Feb. 3, 1755	43
Hamilton, Alexander	Bratton	Feb. 10, 1755	104
Hamilton, Robert	Bratton	Sept. 8, 1755	313
Irvine, William	Oliver	March 22, 1755	175
Lyon, William	Granville	April 10, 1755	398
McCord, Thomas and Armstrong, James	Granville	April 10, 1755	133

Name	Twp.	Date	Acres
McCoskey, Neal	Wayne	Feb. 17, 1755	230
McFarlane, Patrick	Armagh	Feb. 3, 1755	175
McNitt, Robert	Armagh	Sept. 8, 1755	195
McNitt, William	Armagh	Sept. 8, 1755	169
Martin, Everhart	Derry	April 2, 1755	265
Moore, John	Armagh	April 17, 1755	310
Sterret, James	Armagh	Feb. 4, 1755	563
Taylor, Robert	Brown	Feb. 4, 1755	106
Torrentine, Alexander	Menno	Feb. 5, 1755	99
Torrentine, Samuel	Menno	Feb. 5, 1755	113
Wier, John	Armagh	March 17, 1755	179

Of the three tracts warranted Feb. 3, 1755, the day the land office opened, only that of Patrick McFarlane was ever occupied by the warrantee or his descendants. It was not until 1785 that the first McFarlane, James, son of Patrick, settled on the tract.

CHAPTER 3—INDIAN WARS

Down the rivers, o'er the prairies,
Came the warriors of the nations,
Came the Delawares and (Shawnees) . . .
All the warriors drawn together.

From Hiawatha
By Henry W. Longfellow

Mifflin County's settlement during the 1754-1789 period was by no means a peaceful and steady inflow of settlers. Three distinct wars swept over the frontier, the first two of which drove every settler from the valleys of the Juniata and the Kishacoquillas, while in the third, the Revolution, Mifflin County was the frontier, threatened continually with invasion by British inspired Indians.

This chapter deals with the first two of these wars, the French and Indian War and Pontiac's War. While the latter is often included by historians as a part of the French and Indian War it was an Indian outbreak coming as an aftermath of the French and Indian War, rightfully called Pontiac's Conspiracy after the Ottawa chief who planned the simultaneous attacks on many points along the frontier. While the French were likely very much in sympathy with the Indians in this last desperate venture to drive back the whites, they took little if any active part in Pontiac's War.

Mifflin County was to feel the ravages of this period of savage warfare and its settlement was to be directly affected by events of the years between 1754 and 1764 which occured far to the west, including Fort Necessity, Braddock's defeat, Bushy Run, and finally Bouquet's conquering of the Indians on the Muskingum in Ohio in 1764 which brought peace to the frontier settlements until the years of the Revolution.

Indians Ally With French

The French and Indian War was the result of the distribution of English and French settlements in North America and their natural expansion. When the paths of the advance guards of the two nationalities crossed in Western Pennsylvania there was an inevitable conflict in which the Indians allied themselves with the French. Settling along the St. Lawrence and at Mobile and New Orleans on the Gulf of Mexico, the French sought to connect their settlements with a chain of forts, 60 in number through the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys which had been claimed by LaSalle for France in 1682.

As the English pushed their settlements west they encountered these forts. The French had forseen this and during the 30 years following the 30 Years War in Europe and the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 they prepared for the struggle.

English and Virginia speculators formed the Ohio Company in 1748 the object of which was the settlement of the country west of the Alleghenies, really a part of Pennsylvania but claimed by Virginia. The formation of this company alarmed the French and they ordered a chain of forts built nearer the English settlements, one at Presque Isle (Erie) and another at Venango (near Franklin). They assumed the offensive by the destruction of an English post on the Miami River in Ohio. The Ohio Company then began the erection of a fort where Pittsburgh now stands, but the small force was driven off by the French who built Fort Duquesne.

Capt. George Washington, said to have fired the first shot in that skirmish, then fell back and built Fort Necessity, which he was compelled to surrender July 4, 1754. This was the same week in which the Penns bought additional land from the Indians, throwing open for settlement the large territory covered by the Albany Purchase.

The English outnumbered the French ten to one when this conflict broke out but the latter enlisted the aid of the Indians. This was easy to do as the French were traders rather

than actual settlers and interfered but little with the Indian's hunting grounds. Because of this alliance the conflict became known as the French and Indian War, lasting from 1754 until Forbes took possession of Fort Duquesne in 1758.

Delawares Alienated

The Albany purchase was a powerful factor in alienating not only the Delawares but other Indians in Pennsylvania. The Delawares and Shawnees of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys found their land virtually "sold from under their feet," lands they claimed the Six Nations had guaranteed them on their migration into these valleys. The provincial authorities by purchasing these lands from the Iroquois and not recognizing the Delawares and Shawnees brought about the bloodiest war in colonial history. However, it should be pointed out, that while it did bring on a Delaware and Shawnee war, Pennsylvania escaped a Six Nations war which would have been much more serious.

In 1755 General Edward Braddock was sent over as commander-in-chief of the English forces. He planned four campaigns against the French and their Indian allies, one was against Louisburg, guarding the mouth of the St. Lawrence, another against Crown Point on Lake Champlain, a third against the French post at Niagara, and the fourth against Fort Duquesne. This last campaign Braddock led in person and on July 9, 1755, fell into an ambuscade near Fort Duquesne where the English forces were completely routed. Had he listened to the advice of young Captain George Washington this defeat might easily have been averted, but Braddock was mortally wounded and his grave may be seen today by the side of the National Highway, just east of Uniontown. After his burial it was only the skillful retreat engineered by young Washington that prevented the complete annihilation of the English forces.

Even before Braddock's defeat Indians were showing hostility toward the frontier settlements. May 26, 1755, Col. John Armstrong, writing to Gov. Morris, told of his brother, a surveyor engaged in surveying lands in Kishacoquillas Valley, having seen "Three Indians very much painted" who had "robb'd and drove off several Settlers from the Valley of Kishacoquillis." (Colonial Records, vol. 6, p.403).

Braddock's Defeat Encourages Indians

The success of the French and Indians against Braddock's force encouraged the Indians to grow bolder, especially the Delawares. On October 16, 1755, they attacked and massacred settlers on Penns Creek in Snyder County and on October 31 Delawares and Shawnees invaded Franklin County.

"I am much afraid that Juniata (Mifflin County), Tuscarora (Juniata County) and Shermans Valley (Perry County) hath suffered," John Potter wrote from Conococheague on November 3, 1755. (Colonial Records, vol. 6, p.673).

Meanwhile the Governor and Assembly engaged in a dispute as to how to raise funds for the defense of the frontier and the Indians continued their depredations. Public indignation rose to the point where some of the bodies of those murdered by the Indians were sent to Philadelphia and hauled about the streets, placarded that they were the victims of the non-resistance policy of the Quaker-controlled government. The mob even placed the dead bodies in the door of the hall in which the Assembly was meeting.

Finally on November 26, 1755, funds were granted and Pennsylvania began the erection of a chain of forts at a cost of £85,000. This chain extended across Pennsylvania from the Delaware Water Gap to the Maryland line just north of Cumberland, Md.

Fort Granville Ordered

December 17, 1755, the first step for the protection of this part of the frontier was taken. Captain George Croghan was ordered by the provincial authorities to "fix on proper Place for erecting three Stockades . . . one on Kishacoquillas . . . each of them fifty feet square, with a Blockhouse on two of the corners, and bar-

racks within, capable of Lodging Fifty Men." (Penna. Archives. Series 1, vol. 2, p.536).

On January 29, 1756, it was reported that among the forts erected was one "on Juniata, where Kishiquokeles falls into it, called Fort Granville." Tradition has it that the fort was named for Granville Penn. The fort was garrisoned with 75 men who were ordered to range the woods each way in an effort to prevent the Indians from reaching the settlements to the east and south. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, vol. 2, p.556).

The Mifflin County Historical Society has in its possession a copy of a map made by Capt. George Croghan at the time he built Fort Granville. It shows the fort and its location in respect to the surrounding country. A trail is shown from the fort directly south through Granville Gap, Licking Creek Valley, Tuscarora Valley (passing Stewart's Fort), Sherman's Valley and crossing into Cumberland Valley and to Carlisle by either Hurley's or McClure's Gap. The streams and mountains of the section are correctly shown. Two houses are shown near the mouth of Kishacoquillas Creek, on the north bank. The "Little Machenoy" (now Middle) Creek is clearly shown.

To the east the nearest fort was Fort Patterson at Mexico, Juniata County, while to the southwest, Fort Shirley, located within the present corporate limits of Shirleysburg, Huntingdon County, was the nearest fortification.

Fort Granville Garrisoned

Three battalions were organized to man the chain of forts and guard the frontier. The second battalion was under Col. John Armstrong and had eight companies and 400 men. It guarded west of the Susquehanna and it was one of the companies of the Second Battalion under Captain Edward Ward and Lieutenant Edward Armstrong (brother of Col. Armstrong), which was stationed at Fort Granville.

The extent to which the provincial authorities were aroused over the situation is shown by the fact that on April 14, 1756, they declared war on the Delawares and offered bounties for prisoners and scalps.

About the time Fort Granville was built and garrisoned private forts were built in Juniata County (Fort Bigham) and Perry County (Fort Robison). On January 27, 1756, Delawares massacred settlers in those two counties and Captain Patterson of Fort Patterson on a scouting tour met Indians on Middle Creek in Snyder County. June 11 Fort Bigham was captured and burned and all within it killed or taken captive. In July a marauding party of Indians was in Shermans Valley, Perry County. By this time or before all settlers of Mifflin County had fled to their former homes or taken refuge with friends in safer localities. The refugees in Fort Granville were settlers from farther north and west.

Fort Granville's existence was short. In this history for the first time its siege and capture, the outstanding event of military importance in the early history of Mifflin County, will be told in all details. Earlier histories have dealt entirely with the English account of the capture and burning of Fort Granville. The authors of this history have located official French accounts of this event other than the three brief references in Pennsylvania Archives which quote from French reports. These newly discovered data bring to light many hitherto unknown facts regarding the events leading up to the capture and the reason for the expedition from Fort Duquesne, which, by the way, was a campaign of vengeance for the death of a Frenchman killed in a skirmish with the forces of Virginia militia led by George Washington in 1754 near the present Uniontown. Another fact of interest shown in the French account is that Fort Granville was not the objective of the expedition. The blundering of an Indian guide brought the party into the vicinity of Fort Granville; it was sighted and attacked "on the spur of the moment" as it were.

English Version of Fort Granville Siege

However, to keep the English and French accounts of the event straight

in the minds of the readers the English version will be given first, then the French. It is true there are discrepancies between the two accounts, but they in no wise detract, rather add to the interest of the comparison. It is to be remembered that many facts given in the English version could not be known with accuracy by those telling the contemporary story and were matters of guess or supposition. The same is true of the French account.

Ordered erected on December 17, 1755, Fort Granville was completed and garrisoned by January 29, 1756. In March there was the first report of Indians in the vicinity of the fort. About 10 o'clock the night of March 29 the men at Fort Patterson (Mexico, Juniata County) "heard a firing; which they supposed to be at Fort Granville, or the fort at Tuskarora, and imagine it is taken. They imagine the Firing was Canon or Plattoons." (Penna. Archives, Series 1, vol. 2, p.613).

In a "Very Bad Situation"

The condition of Fort Granville with regard to ammunition and supplies is well told in the following two letters taken from Pennsylvania Archives:

Elisha Salter wrote from Carlisle April 4, 1756: "From Fort Granville 31 March, there was a party of Indians, 4 in number within one mile of the fort, which fort is badly stored with ammunition not having three rounds per man, they thought it not prudent to venture after them." Salter says that some of the soldiers at Fort Granville at that time had left to guard inhabitants. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, vol. 2, p.611).

The same month, April 19, 1756, James Burd wrote from Carlisle: "I am informed they are entirely out of all manner of provisions at Fort Granville, which is in a very bad situation, as the enemy are constantly visiting them—they have wounded two men in sight of the fort and one of the men's lives is dispaired of, they would have carried them off had not Lieut. Ward rushed out of the fort and rescued them. Mr. Ward sent a detachment under command of Ensign Clark after the enemy but they could not come up with them—unless the garrisons are reinforced to 150 men each and sufficient stores and ammunition and provisions this part of our province will be forced." (ibid. p.631).

It is clear that Fort Granville was never well manned nor adequately supplied and events at the time of its capture showed that its location made it comparatively easy to take. James Burd's predictions were to come true only too soon.

On July 22 a party of 20 Indians appeared before Fort Granville (Gordon: "History of Pennsylvania," p. 619) and challenged the garrison to combat. This was declined by the commander, in consequence of the weakness of his force. The Indians fired at and wounded one man, who had been a short distance away from the fort, yet he got in safe. Eight days later on July 30, Captain Edward Ward, commanding at the fort, left the fort taking with him all but 24 men which he left under command of Lieutenant Edward Armstrong. Captain Ward and his detachment went to guard settlers in Shermans Valley (Perry County) who were reaping their crops.

French and Indians Attack

Soon after the captain's departure the fort was attacked by about 100 Indians and French (the French account says 23 Frenchmen and 30 Indians). The French and Indians assaulted the fort in vain during the afternoon and night. Protected by the nearby river bank the enemy reached a deep ravine in the shelter of which they were able to approach within 30 or 40 feet of the fort which they succeeded setting on fire. Through a hole thus made they killed Lieutenant Armstrong and one private and wounded three others when they were forced to expose themselves in the effort to extinguish the fire.

The enemy then offered quarter to the besieged if they would surrender. A man named John Turner immediately opened the gate. The fort was burned by the Indians under Captain Jacobs on the order of the French commander after the 23 soldiers, three women and several children

taken prisoners had been marched back some distance from the fort.

The prisoners were taken to the Delaware Indian village of Kittanning on the Allegheny River where Turner was tortured to death. It is interesting to note here that Turner was the husband of the widow of Simon Girty Sr. and that Turner, his wife and their son John and four Girty boys, including Simon Girty Jr., the one who in later years became the notorious renegade, were refugees who had sought shelter in Fort Granville at the time it was besieged and captured. Turner had settled in Hartley Township, Buffalo Valley, Union County, and had filed a claim under the purchase of 1754 which he sold to John Harris in 1755. (Caveat Books, Penna. Archives).

Beatty confirms these facts in his journal written 10 years later as he passed through on his missionary journey. He says the fort was located near the house of Thomas Holt (Journal, p.17). This location is verified by data given in some of the early land applications and by the map made by Scull in 1759.

Colonial Records (Vol. 7, p.231) mention a letter in French which is said to have been found at the site of Fort Granville by those who went there to inspect the ruins after the French and Indians had left. The letter was preserved but a literal translation fails to indicate anything of significance. It appears to have been a mere fragment of a letter, incoherent and with many omissions. It was signed: "Your Servant, Pinella Ciere."

Survivor Tells of Fort's Capture

Peter Walker, a member of the garrison of the fort who was captured and taken to Kittanning, made his escape from the Indians and gave an account of the taking of the fort which is recorded in Colonial Records (Vol. 7, p.232) in part as follows:

" . . . of the Enemy not less than 120 returned all in health, one French Man, shot thro' the Shoulder by Lt. Armstrong a little before his death, as the French Man was erecting his Body out of the hollow to thro' Pine knots on the Fire made against the Fort . . . Captain Jacobs said he cou'd take any Fort That wou'd catch Fire . . . they had two Indians killed in the Engagement . . . some of the Germans flag'd very much the Second day, and that the Lieutenant behaved with the greatest bravery to the very last, despising all the Terrors and Threats of the Enemy, whereby they Often urged him to Surrender; tho' he had been near two Days without Water, but a little Ammunition left, The Fort on Fire, and the Enemy situate within twelve or fourteen Yards of the Fort, under the Natural Bank, he was as far from yielding as when first attacked . . . telling his Men to hold put bravely for the flame was falling and he wou'd soon have it extinguished, but soon after received the fatal Ball . . ."

Not an eloquently worded account perhaps, but, reading between the lines of Peter Walker's deposition as recorded by Col. John Armstrong, one can see a display of bravery that hot July day in 1756 which is unsurpassed perhaps in all the annals of Pennsylvania's Indian wars.

Col. John Armstrong and Captain Edward Ward who inspected the ruins of the fort a few days after its destruction found parts of the bodies of eight of the enemy burned. To keep the loss of this number secret from the prisoners was evidently the reason that the French officer marched them back some distance from the fort before ordering the burning of the barracks. (Colonial Records, Vol. 7, p.231).

The French Version

The foregoing are the facts as recorded by English and Colonial authorities. In turning to the French version it must be remembered that all events transpiring on this part of the frontier had a very definite relation to battles and movement of troops in South-Western Pennsylvania, where the paths of the advance guards of French and English forces had crossed. There the conflict started and there it was finally concluded.

To get the proper background to understand the chain of events which ed up to the attack on Fort Granville one must recall the fact that when the Ohio Company of English and

Virginia land speculators started the erection of a fort at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela early in 1754 they were driven off by a superior force of French and young Capt. George Washington in command of the Virginia forces fell back to the south-east. The French completed the fort and named it Fort Duquesne for the French Governor General of Canada.

Ensign M. de Jumonville, a half-brother of M. Coulon de Villiers and of Louis (The Great) de Villiers, was in the French service at Fort Duquesne. On May 23, 1754, Ensign de Jumonville was ordered out with a small force to scout along the headwaters of the Monongahela to the crest of the Alleghenies and to deliver warnings to any English he might meet to leave French-claimed territory.

When Washington learned that de Jumonville was in the vicinity, he attacked the French one dark night and in the skirmish which lasted but 15 minutes the French lost 10 killed and one wounded, one of the dead being Jumonville. Twenty-one were taken prisoners.

The French blamed Washington for assassinating Jumonville and Louis de Villiers asked permission of Captain M. de Contrecoeur, commander at Fort Duquesne, to take command of the French force sent out after Washington. De Villiers says in his journal: "as I was oldest officer and commanded the Indian nations, and as my brother had been assassinated (Jumonville, who was a half-brother) M. de Contrecoeur honored me with the command." (Donehoo's History of Pennsylvania, p.698).

The story of his engagement with young Washington at Fort Necessity is well known to every student of history; while de Villiers "captured" Washington, the young Virginian was able to negotiate articles of capitulation which permitted the Virginia forces to retire with all the honors of war. However, one of the terms which had been submitted to Washington in French and interpreted by a Dutchman, Capt. Jacob Van Braam, had not been understood by the English and after the engagement de Villiers boasted: "We made the English consent to sign that they had assassinated my brother (Jumonville) in his camp." Washington was severely criticized and defended himself before the Virginia House of Burgesses where he was absolved of the charge after explaining that the translation of the French terms had been made in pitch darkness with the light of a candle which it was difficult to keep lighted for the pouring rain. Captain Van Braam's translation mentioned no such word as "assassination" as he used the term "death of Jumonville." (Sipe's "The Indian Wars of Pennsylvania," p.206)

This lengthy explanation of alleged "assassination" of Jumonville is given because the French commander, who laid siege to Fort Granville, captured and burned it, was also a half-brother of Ensign M. de Jumonville. His expedition which resulted in the capture of Fort Granville was undertaken for the same reason that his brother, Louis de Villiers, had asked to command the force which met Washington at Fort Necessity—revenge for the alleged "assassination" of their half-brother, de Jumonville.

The authors are indebted to Dr. W. F. Wagner of Hartleton, Penna., for the information which led to the discovery of a publication of the Laval University, Quebec, written by Father Amedee Gosselin, Professor of History of that university, which gives the account of the man who commanded the French and Indians who took Fort Granville, M. Coulon de Villiers, alias the Chevalier. This publication (in French, "Notes sur la famille Coulon de Villiers," 1906,) was recently presented to Carnegie Library of Bucknell University, Lewisburg, by Dr. Wagner.

An Avenging Brother

The story as told in this publication relates that Chevalier de Villiers "desired to go on an expedition against the English, guided primarily by the desire of working for the glory of the King's arms; at the same time he was delighted to make use of all the occasions which presented themselves for avenging the death of Sr. Jumonville, his brother, killed by the English."

M. Dumas, commander at Fort Duquesne permitted him to go in the direction of Fort Cumberland where he might impede the English lines of communication between the forts. He set out with 60 men, French and English, but failure of supplies and sickness forced him to return to Fort Duquesne.

He asked permission to go against the English a second time and permission was granted. Kerlerec in a letter gives the following account of de Villiers' expedition:

"Chevalier de Villiers set out then on July 13 with 22 Frenchmen to go to the village of Attique (15 leagues distant from Fort Duquesne) where he raised a party of 32 savages of nationality, Loups, Chouannons, and Illinois, which made for him in all a detachment of 55 men, with which he set out from this village the 17th of the same month (July, 1756), with the project of returning to the English fort George de Craon (Fort Shirley), but his guide was deceived en route, and he found himself on the 30th at noon in view of Fort Granville; they discovered three men that he wished to encircle, but having been seen, they fled into the fort in spite of several musket shots."

The fort was well guarded and de Villiers saw only one method of taking it; to set fire to it. After having stationed one part of his men before the fort, he used the rest of his men to carry dry wood near the bastion, then they set a fire which the enemy could not put out. The breach was opened and the Chevalier proposed at dawn to enter the fort with bayonets at the firing of muskets, when the garrison which had lost its commander, two officers, and six soldiers, opened the gates of the fort and acted with discretion. The garrison contained 30 soldiers. There were also 3 women and 7 children. Thanks to their pathetic pleas, "de Villiers succeeded in saving them all from the fury of the Savages who wished to burn some of them."

De Villiers then burned the fort, spiked the cannon, took possession of the powder and the flour which he found there and returned to Fort Duquesne with his prisoners. He arrived there August 12.

It is interesting to know that de Villiers was recommended by his superiors as a recipient of the Cross of St. Louis from Louis XV, none other than Montcalm being one who made such a recommendation and cited as one of his exploits the taking of Fort Granville. The above account is taken from Gosselin's Notes.

Other French Accounts

French versions of the taking of Fort Granville are also given in Pennsylvania Archives Series 2, vol. 6, as follows:

"Chevalier Villiers, on the 2d of August, has been very successful in burning another Fort called Fort Grandville, sixty miles from Philadelphia." (p.402).

"Captain de Villiers, of the Illinois, having left Fort Duquesne with 23 Frenchmen and thirty Indians, had, on the 15th of August, attacked a fort on the frontiers of Pennsylvania, in which were two pieces of cannon, thirty-three persons, including some women and children, the Commandant having left some days before with forty men as an escort, for a port near the sea, distant about thirty leagues; he had this fort summoned, and as it refused to surrender, he kept up a fire of musketry during two days, whilst one-half his men were making fagots of dry wood with which to set fire to that fort. An hour before day one part of the garrison was put to the sword and the other taken prisoners. This fort contained six months' provisions for one hundred men." (p.405).

"Chevalier de Villiers Lieutenant of the Colonial troops, with a detachment of 55 men, captured Fort Granville, within 60 miles of Philadelphia. It was garrisoned by 35 men and provisioned for six months and had two swivels. All had been burnt, killed, or taken prisoners." (p.407).

Three Factors Caused Granville's Fall

There are several places in the Colonial Records where the capture of the fort is mentioned. Col. Clapham writing from Ft. Augusta Aug. 14 (Penna. Archives, Series 1, vol.2, p.743) said: "Last night I rec'd by express the disagreeable news that

Fort Granville was taken and burned to the ground by a body of 500 French and Indians; that the whole Garrison were killed except one person who was much wounded and made his escape; and am well assured that this loss was entirely occasioned by a want of ammunition having rec'd a letter 2 or 3 days ago from Col. Jno. Armstrong that they had in that fort only one pound of powder and 14 lbs. lead." The Governor in his message to the Assembly told of the burning of "Fort Granville on the Juniata, one of our most considerable forts on the Western frontier" (ibid p.750). A petition from Cumberland County Aug. 21 said that "the French and their Savage allies took Fort Granville 30th July last, then commanded by the late Lieut. Edward Armstrong and carried the greatest part of the Garrison prisoners." (ibid p.757).

Three factors worked against the holding of the fort. The first was the need for ammunition and supplies. The second was the fact that the commander marched away to help the settlers harvest their grain and left such a small detachment in the fort. A third factor was that the Indians were able from its location to set fire to the fort. Apparently the siege lasted from noon of July 30 to about 4 a.m. the morning of Sunday, August 1, 1756. The capture of Fort Granville was a high point in the early history of Mifflin County.

The capture of Fort Granville compelled the provincial government to take more vigorous measures. Col. John Armstrong gathered several companies together at Fort Shirley and marched on August 30, 1756, for Kittanning (Attique), a large Indian village on the Allegheny north of Fort Duquesne. The attack was made on September 8, the village was destroyed, a large number of Indians killed, including Captain Jacobs, and a number of white prisoners released. Six days later Col. Armstrong returned to Fort Littleton.

Peace Short-Lived

Following the Kittanning expedition massacres subsided but it was not until after the treaty of peace signed at the council held at Easton in October 1758 and Forbes' occupation of Fort Duquesne the next month that any settlers ventured back. It is not likely that more than a few of the most fearless returned to their land until 1760. After the settlement of 1755 no land was warranted until 1762 when nearly 50 warrants were granted, showing that the fear of Indian attack had subsided to a point where new settlers were establishing homes. According to tradition the first white child was born in the Kishacoquillas Valley in 1763. All of Mifflin County was included in Fermanagh Township. The first and only Fermanagh tax list before 1767 is that of 1763, but no Mifflin County settlers are shown. It is a little known period of the settlement of Mifflin County for the hopes of the settlers for a lasting peace were short-lived.

An interesting incident of this period is given:

Alexander and Samuel Torrentine, brothers, had warranted land in what is now Menno Township on February 5, 1755, having been among those who entered the county immediately after the Albany Purchase was made for they had planted a wheat patch in the Fall of 1754. During the Spring of 1755 they built a cabin and cleared more land, only to be driven out when the French and Indian War broke out. They never returned but sold their claim to John McDowell, telling him, according to tradition, that they had buried two mattoocks, two axes and a jug of whiskey in the northwest corner of the cabin floor before leaving. McDowell came to the Kishacoquillas Valley with the return of the settlers about 1761. He found the mattocks, axes and whiskey, although the cabin had been burned. (Cochran's History of Mifflin County, p.369).

Those settlers who returned to their land scarcely had time to clear off the growth which had sprung up during five years absence from their clearings, and the new settlers had hardly had time to erect cabins and break a small patch of ground before Pontiac's War broke out in the Spring of 1763. They had little warning for Pontiac's Conspiracy was well planned and the Indians were in the re-

gion before word spread among the settlers.

Pontiac's War

The conspiracy contemplated a simultaneous attack all along the frontier. Each Indian village joining in the conspiracy was given a bundle of sticks. One stick was taken from the bundle and broken each day. The day the last stick was broken was the "zero" hour of the attack, July 10, 1763. That day Indians attacked in Juniata County. All the territory north of Carlisle was vacated. The year 1763 was one of terror such as had not been experienced since 1756, although the anguish and suffering of the inhabitants as they fled to the settlements to the east and south was even greater than at the outbreak of the French and Indian War. It is estimated that early in 1763 the number of settlers reached the peak for the 1760-63 period and that there were 80 improvements in Mifflin County. But, if the settlers had been somewhat slow to leave at the outbreak of the French and Indian War, they had learned by experience, and when the conspiracy planned by Pontiac came to a head they were quick to take their families to the larger settlements.

Carlisle became a "city of refuge" and the conditions there are vividly described in a letter written by Colonel Henry Bouquet, writing to Governor James Hamilton: "The list of people known to have been killed from 40 to within 16 miles of this town (Carlisle) amounted last night to nineteen, beside wounded, and increased every hour. The desolation of so many families reduced to the very last extremities of want and misery; the dispair of those who have lost their parents, relations and friends; with the cries of distracted women and children who fill the streets, form a scene of horror painful to humanity and impossible to describe."

Bedford and Shippensburg were also havens of refuge for the fleeing settlers and it was said that all houses and stables in the Cumberland Valley were crowded with the refugees.

Episcopal Churches of Philadelphia raised £662 for the sufferers, it having been reported by William Thompson, Missionary for York and Cumberland Counties, that 750 families had abandoned their homes on the frontier. Two chests of arms, a half barrel of powder, 400 pounds of lead, 200 of swan shot and 1000 flints were furnished by this fund and so at cost to those wanting to return to their homes in August 1763.

The terror created in 1763 did not subside in any marked degree until 1765, although Col. Henry Bouquet's victory over the Indians at Bushy Run, August 5-6, 1763, and his expedition into Ohio and victory there in November 1764 cowed the Indians and made possible the return of captives.

The types of fortifications used during the war included: Fort, a strong place of defense and refuge, stockaded and embracing cabins. Station, a parallelogram of cabins united by palisades on the outer side. Blockhouse, a strong two-storied structure with the second floor projecting out over the first.

There were no murders in Mifflin County except that of Hugh Brown, early warrantee of land in Wayne Township, who, tradition says, was killed by the Indians in 1763.

Many Cabins Burned

However, many settlers had their cabins burned, such as John Early, who warranted land on Early's (Hungry) Run in Little Valley, Derry Township, in July 1762, a tract "where he lived and made improvements before the war" (French and Indian). Again in 1766 he warranted more land, and in his application said it included his "improvements burnt in the late wars."

Other warrantees whose warrants or applications contain references to their having been driven out during the Pontiac War include the following: Daniel Jones, who had lived on his tract in Granville Township "except when driven off by Indians"; Matthew Wakefield, Oliver Township, who settled in 1763 and "lived there except two years drove off by Indians"; Thomas Burney, Oliver Township, who had a "house and cleared land which he inhabited and

drove off by Indians"; John Agnew, Derry Township, whose tract included the dwelling place of William Smith sold to Agnew on which improvements had been made in 1761 including house and cleared land. Smith had been driven off by the Indians, according to Agnew's statement in his warrant.

Beatty Tells of Signs of Warfare

The printed Journal of Rev. Charles Beatty, Presbyterian missionary who journeyed through the Juniata Valley in August 1766, added a footnote (p.11) when writing about Tuscarora Valley which sheds light on conditions in this section: "It is truly affecting to see, almost in every place on the frontier, marks of the cruel and barbarous enemy. Houses and fences burned, household furniture destroyed, the cattle killed and the horses either killed or carried off, and to hear the people relate the horrid scenes that were enacted. Women saw their husbands killed and scalped, in a barbarous manner, before their eyes, and themselves captured. Women saw their husbands killed and scalped, while they themselves were led away by the bloody hands of the murderers."

Evidently the settlers began to return to Mifflin County in the spring of 1765, for in the summer of 1766 Beatty reported 80 families living along the Juniata above the Narrows.

Model of Fort Granville Made by L. H. S. Vocational Students

This model is not an exact reproduction in small scale of the original Fort Granville. There are comparatively few facts available as to the details of the construction of the fort. This model follows the size and description of the type of fort contained in the instructions issued by Captain George Croghan who built the fort. Other details of construction are those of contemporary forts of which actual details are known. Hence the model, while it may not look exactly as Fort Granville did back in 1756 is a reproduction in accurate detail of the type of fort built on the frontier during the French and Indian War. It is on exhibition in the Museum of Mifflin County Historical Society.

CHAPTER 4—PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

Where once frown'd a forest a garden is smiling—
The meadow and moorland are marshes no more;
And there curls the smoke of my cottage, beguiling
The children who cluster like grapes at the door.

From The West
By George Pope Morris

After Pontiac's War Central Pennsylvania was blessed with peace, the settlers returned and the permanent settlement of Mifflin County was underway. Never again were the homes of this county to be abandoned because of the threat of war, although the years of the Revolution were to bring anxiety and the threat of Indian invasion. Thus the peace which lasted from 1765 to 1775 was a time of settlement during which this county's pioneers were able to establish homes, clear land, and become firmly rooted in the valleys of the Juniata and the Kishacoquillas, enabling them to withstand the stress of the years of the War for Independence.

The Settlers Return to Stay

During this period the two valleys in what is now Mifflin County grew in population from nothing to an estimated 700. So far as actual residents were concerned, the years between 1763 and 1765 found the county abandoned to the roving bands of Indians who pillaged and burned every cabin they could find. The return of the first settlers the Spring of 1765 was followed by new settlers and that year four warrants were granted, the first since early in 1763.

The only recorded contemporary account of this period is to be found in the printed Journal of Rev. Charles Beatty, Presbyterian missionary, who passed through the Juniata Valley in August 1766. A footnote on page 20 of that journal, published in London in 1768, gives his description of the section of the valley between the Narrows and the mouth of the Aughwick which flows into the Juniata just a short distance below Mount Union. It is as follows: "Here, and on many other places on this river, is very rich land, usually distinguished by the name of Bottom Land, excellent for hemp and Indian corn; but it is so rich, that it must be cultivated some years, and sowed or planted with other grains, before it will produce good wheat. It abounds with fine black walnut timber; and the people settled in this river have an advantage above many others on the frontiers; and that is of carrying down the river, when the water rises but a little with the rains, their produce, and floating down walnut boards to Harris's or Wright's ferry (Harrisburg or Wrightsville), on Susquehanna river, . . . where they have a market for their produce; so that they will be able in some years, if peace continues to support a minister among them."

This gives us a picture of a rich farming section with transportation facilities better than the average for those times. Beatty did not visit the Kishacoquillas Valley, only mentioning what he learned of it from those he visited along the Juniata, saying that it was "mostly very good land" where there were but five or six families settled at that time. He estimated the population between the Narrows and the Aughwick at 80 families. This was probably a high estimate according to the assessments of the first tax lists made the following year.

System of Warranting Land

Here it should be interesting to describe briefly the manner in which lands were granted during the Colonial period, for in 1766 so great became the demand for titles to new lands that the warrant system had to be changed to keep up with the flood of applications for warrants.

A warrant was an order to the Surveyor General to lay out a certain amount of land to a certain person and to make return thereof to the Secretary of the province. Origin-

ally warrants were written in the simplest terms, but later became much more complicated in their provisions. There were a number of kinds of warrants: Descriptive warrants in which the boundaries were laid out with certainty; indescriptive or vague warrants; shifted warrants, where the land actually surveyed was different from that described in the warrant; vacated warrants, which recited a former warrant and directed the laying out for a new claimant; warrants of resurvey which provided for the resurveying of the land to correct errors which were made frequently in the original surveys. There were other forms of warrants of later introduction, including warrants of acceptance, reciting a former warrant as transferred and accepted, also relocating warrants, reciting a former warrant and directing that a like amount of land be laid out elsewhere.

After the warrant was prepared it was taken to the Surveyor General, who sent the original or a copy to the deputy who was to do the actual work. It was the duty of the purchaser to show the deputy the land to be surveyed and to furnish all facilities for the work. It was the custom to return six per cent over and above the acreage stipulated in the warrant as an allowance for roads, etc.

Upon payment of the deputy's fees by the purchaser, a return of survey was made by him to the Surveyor General's office and there filed. Such a survey returned bound the purchaser against claiming more land than was included in it and protected him against subsequent claims for the same land.

When a patent was desired the applicant applied to the Surveyor General and obtained a certificate giving the information in the warrant which he carried to the Secretary of the Land office, and, if all appeared regular, a patent was issued. A patent was in form and effect a deed poll granting lands in fee simple and reserving a quit-rent of varying amount to the proprietary. It was signed either by the proprietary himself, or, in his absence by his Commissioners of Property.

Between 1765 and 1769 a somewhat different system was followed, known as the "application system," adopted by the Proprietary Government to check evils of land speculation and enable those in charge of granting of warrants to keep up with the great demand for land titles. Instead of giving a warrant immediately the name of the applicant was first entered in the day book, then in the warrant book. No more than 300 acres could be granted to a single individual without special order from the proprietaries. Within six months the survey was returned to the Surveyor General's office when a warrant would be sent from the office of the Secretary of the province to the Surveyor General ordering him to accept the survey and file a certificate of its return to the secretary. Within six months of the date of the return, the applicant was to make full payment for the land to the Receiver General at the rate of five pounds per 100 acres. To guard against fictitious applications for speculative purposes a clause in the warrant required bona fide settlement as a condition of validity. In September 1769 the "application system" was discontinued and the former method of issuing warrants used again.

Under neither system were lands given away by the proprietary government. For a number of years after 1732, 15 pounds, 10 shillings was the regular rate for 100 acres, with a quit-rent of a half-penny sterling per acre, but after 1765 this was reduced to about five pounds sterling per 100 acres, with a quit-rent of one penny sterling.

The foregoing description of the method of granting land titles was obtained from "Mifflin County Families from the Records," written by Lefferd and Mary Haughwout, who give credit to "Original Land Titles in Philadelphia" by Lawrence Lewis, Jr., pp. 71-78, and to "History of Proprietary Government in Pennsylvania" by William Robert Sheppherd, pp. 71-73.

During this period two tracts of land were granted in Mifflin County by the proprietaries which did not come under the warrant or application systems. These grants were in

payment for services rendered the proprietary government.

Sharon Manor

The first was the Montour or Sharon Manor of 1710 acres located in Menno Township, just east of Allensville. This was the only manor in what is now Mifflin County and was given Andrew Montour, erroneously called Henry Montour, for reasons as recited in the following letter written by Richard Peters, July 11, 1761 to Col. John Armstrong, Deputy Surveyor: "The Indians at Easton having recommended it to the proprietaries to let their good Friend Henry Montour have some commodious and good place to contain not less than fifteen hundred acres within the lands purchased from them over Sasquahanah. When he was last there he applied for the same intending to go and locate it . . . he is detained . . . and therefore that he may have no cause of complaint I think it proper to inform you of this and that you in conjunction with Mr. Croghan to whom he has committed the care of this matter may survey for him as such places as may be shewed to you, if not before appropriated or settled the quantity of fifteen hundred acres and I shall forthwith acquaint the Proprietaries that I have given you this order.

"Henry Montour located the above grant in Lacken's Cove, situate betwixt Kishacoquillas Creek and Juniata, a river, and about five or six miles from where a family of the name of Brown is settled on Juniata." (Land Office Records).

When the survey was made July 5-7, 1766, the tract contained 1710 acres instead of the 1500 requested. The name Sharon was given the manor, later called Barefield. The manor was finally patented by Benjamin Chew September 3, 1796 to whom it had been sold by the executors of Rev. Richard Peters, who had obtained it in some manner from Montour. It was sold by Chew to John and Jacob King of Lancaster, April 12, 1804, and has lost its identity by being broken up into farms.

Montour was a half-breed, the son of the famous Madam Montour, and served as an interpreter and resided in Shermans Valley, Perry County, where he had been placed in charge of lands not sold by the Indians to keep trespassers off. It was for his services at the grand council at Easton, in 1758 as an interpreter, that he was given the land. In the minutes of this council his name was given erroneously as Henry instead of Andrew, hence the fact that it is given Henry in the above letter.

The "Armstrong Tract"

Another large tract was one of 1015 acres given Col. John Armstrong, "Hero of Kittanning," and located in Union Township. One corner of it lay within the present town of Belleville. Col. Armstrong never resided on the tract but some of his descendants occupied it. The tradition that the land was given him for his services in avenging the taking of Fort Granville as the leader of the Kittanning Expedition which took and burned the Indian town in Western Pennsylvania; resulting in the death of Captain Jacobs, seems to be denied by the wording of the patent for this land which recites that this tract was given Col. Armstrong "for and in full satisfaction of his services before that time rendered as one of the Proprietaries' Deputy Surveyors." It was warranted March 6, 1759, and patented March 2, 1764.

Despite the efforts of the proprietaries to prevent speculation in land it is evident that at least 50 tracts of land warranted during the early development of the county were obtained by land speculators who never resided on the land and in some instances never saw the land, but held it until they found sale for it at a profit.

First Tax Assessment in 1767

By 1767 the section was settled to the extent that an assessment was made as a part of Fermanagh Township of which it was then a part. About 40 of the names on the tax list were those residing in what is now Mifflin County. July of that year petition was made for the division of Fermanagh Township and the setting up of a new township which was called Derry and embraced all of Mifflin County. The same month a

petition was presented to the Cumberland County Court asking that a carriage road be laid out from Shermans Valley to William Brown's in Kishacoquillas Valley. This road entered Mifflin County through the Narrows on the north side of the Juniata and passing through what is now Lewistown, continued through Manns Narrows to what is now Reedsville.

Derry Township Erected

In 1768 when the first tax list for the new township was made by the assessment of that year, Derry Township had about 50 families. The first Derry Township officers named by the Cumberland County Court were: Samuel Sanders, Constable; George Bell and Thomas Holt, Supervisors of Roads; no Overseer of Poor being named. The next year (1769) the officers were as follows: Daniel Jones, Constable; William Brown and Samuel Sanders, Supervisors of Roads; John Carmichael and George Bell, Overseers of Poor. In 1769 the first Viewers of Fences were named: James Lyon and James Ross.

The name of the new township Derry, was a typical Scotch-Irish name from the town and county of Londonderry in Ireland from which many of the settlers had come. Londonderry was always known as Derry, hence the name used here.

The tax lists used by the authors in their research for this history were obtained from Cumberland County records at Carlisle by personal search. Only names of those settlers actually occupying their land were used, unseated land was disregarded, as it was evidence the holders were non-residents.

In the 1767 tax list of Fermanagh Township, those residing in Mifflin County included the owners of three negro slaves, Andrew Bratton, John Gemmell, and Thomas Ferguson. Servants were also assessed, being apprentices or "bound" white servants. "Freemen" who were assessed, were single men who were taxed in addition to land or personal property they owned.

The tax lists show that in 1771 one man was not assessed because he had suffered by fire. In a number of instances there were exonerations of taxes because the people were "poor."

There was only one woman on the first tax list of 1767, Dorcas Holt Buchanan, widow of the early settler, Arthur Buchanan. She returned from Carlisle where her husband had died in 1760 after having been driven out of Mifflin County by the Indians in 1755. Her early assessment shows that she returned with the men at the end of Pontiac's War.

It is altogether likely that there were a number of squatters residing in the county during these years whose residence could not be called permanent. They were in reality transients and there is no record of them.

These early tax lists show that the first grist mill assessed was that of Samuel Holliday (McVeytown) in 1769 and there is a tradition that he operated a sawmill as early as 1766. Beatty mentions "Holliday's Mill" in 1766.

In October 1769 a petition was presented to the court for a bridle path from the mouth of the Kishacoquillas to the mouth of the Aughwick.

Armagh Second Township

January 1770 Armagh Township was formed by a court order granting a petition of the inhabitants of Kishacoquillas Valley to "strike the Great Valley into a township by itself . . . called by the name of Armagh." Again the settlers chose a name to remind them of their homes in Northern Ireland; Armagh was a county from which many of them or their ancestors had come.

The first Armagh Township officers were: (1770) William Brown, Constable; James Moore, Supervisor of Roads; James Reed, Overseer of Poor.

Abraham Sanford had a grist mill in Manns Narrows in 1771, according to that year's tax list. This mill served the Kishacoquillas Valley settlers, who previously had to go to Holliday's Mill. In 1774 William Junkin had a grist mill in Bratton Township and in 1775 William Brown established his mill at what was later called Brown's Mills, now Reedsville.

The first school master to be assess-

ed was John Johnston of Derry Township in 1773.

Occasionally the tax lists refer to a "renter" and list a "lot" for taxation, indicating that the farmer who did not own his own land was rare in those days and that there were few taxables who held land in as small amount as to be called a "lot."

1774 Tax List Summary

The 1774 tax lists record the following interesting summary of that year:

	Armagh	Derry	Totals
Inhabitants	355	412	767
Dwelling houses	75	80	155
Other buildings	61	90	151
Freemen	30	20	50
Negroes	7	9	16
Horses	178	124	302
Cattle	186	133	319
Sheep	0	84	84
Grist mills	1	3	4
Saw mills	1	1	2
Stills	7	3	10
Tanneries	1	0	1

In 1776, John Carmichael was assessed with a ferry. Carmichael resided in Wayne Township opposite the mouth of Aughwick Creek.

This was a period of large migration into the section and data gleaned from Revolutionary pension applications show whence came those who settled in Mifflin County during this period. Of the 50 pension applications by men residing in Mifflin County at the time of their service; 37 give the place of birth as follows: Ireland, 14; south-east Pennsylvania, 21; New York, 1; Maryland, 1. This would indicate the very large proportion of Scotch-Irish among the settlers, for very many of the 21 from South-east Pennsylvania were those who had stopped there for some years on coming from Ireland. They then moved on to new country, a characteristic of these people which carried many of them farther west in the years following the Revolution.

The Coming of the Campbells

The account of the coming to the Kishacoquillas Valley of the Campbell family is both interesting and enlightening on the manner in which the migration took place.

Having bought a tract of land in the "backwoods," "sight unseen," from a man in Philadelphia for $1 per acre, August 1773, Robert and John Campbell, brothers-in-law, hired two men and started on horseback from Delaware for the Kishacoquillas Valley. They took axes, ropes, provisions, and, in place of saddles, used bags filled with one and one-half bushels of wheat. Upon their arrival they built a log cabin, girdled the trees, scratched the ground with a plow made from the crotch of a tree and harrowed it with a thorn bush, thus planting their wheat. They then returned home to spend the Winter with their families.

In the Spring they started for their new home, each family having a team, wagon, cows, colts and hogs. They reached the Kishacoquillas Valley May 2, 1773 and spent the night at William Brown's (Reedsville). The next morning there was snow on the ground and they were much discouraged to think they had come into such a climate. However, Brown assured them it was very unusual that late in the Spring. They had found the journey very rough in places and in coming through the narrows had to take to the bed of the creek at times. They had not realized that the harvest was two weeks later in the Kishacoquillas Valley than in Delaware so their supply of flour ran low. However, they made hominy on which they lived until the wheat was harvested.

(Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, p.759).

The early settlers came into Mifflin County by various means and from several directions. They followed Indian trails or streams for the most part, traveling on foot, on horseback, or by canoe. One group entered from the Conococheague by way of Aughwick Creek; others came up the Juniata, either through the Narrows or by going up Licking Creek and crossing the mountains through Granville Gap.

In the History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, p.545, are found accounts of two trips into the county. Robert Means came from Bucks County up the Juniata River in 1770 in two canoes which were lashed together for convenience. A daughter of Abraham Labaugh came over the

mountains from Carlisle in 1780 and in later life told of being placed in a "chaff-bag" (bed tick) with her sister in the otner end, the bag being hung across a horse with a child on either side.

The extent to which the Juniata River was used for travel is shown in a petition presented t l › General Assembly for the formation of a new county in 1782 which states: " . . . the commerce of this part of the county depends entirely on the River Juniata."

The Town of Derry

Lewistown was not the first town laid out in Mifflin County, documentary evidence having been found that the Town of Derry was laid out on the present site of Lewistown as early as 1775.

On June 26, 1775, Arthur Buchanan sold to John Davis two lots situated "in the Town of Derry and county aforesaid known on the general plan of said town" by nos. 94 and 137. The lots were 60x200 ft. One was situated on Second St., the other on Water St. These deeds are on record in Carlisle. No other reference has been found to the Town of Derry. The Revolution evidently stopped any plans for its development.

Fithian Tells of People and Customs of '75

The second Presbyterian missionary to pass through part of Mifflin County during the period covered in this chapter gives a vivid account of the country, its people and their customs. He was the Rev. Philip Fithian, who journeyed through the Kishacoquillas Valley in August 1775. "Philip Vickers Fithian, Journal, 1775 - 1776" Princeton University Press, pp. 61-117, gives an account of his travels through this part of Pennsylvania. The authors wish to thank the Princeton University Press for permission to quote portions of Fithian's Journal.

He was in continual fear of the Indians he was encountering and frequently meeting. At one place eight horse loads of powder in charge of Indians gave him special cause for alarm. At another time he was molested by "villains, runaways and thieves," but they were white. One of them had taken his coat and when they were apprehended, he observed: "Justice do thy duty." Some places he found bridle paths, in others the byways were "nothing more than a dull bush-covered hog-road with a log across it almost every rod."

Good Roads Infrequent

Occasionally he found a "good wagon-beaten road" and rejoiced for sometimes he had not even a path to follow, such as his journey over the Seven Mountains from Penns Valley, where the first mountain exceeded any he had ever gone over. On ascending it he found "another, and another, still higher," and he was afraid his horse would miss a step which would "be of other consequence than miswalking a minuet." He warned those who would come after him on this journey to be "armed with an uncommon share of patience and perseverance, for if they are furious and hasty," he feared "they may, like the Israelites of long ago, commit sin on these American high places—and swear." At Squire Brown's (Reedsville) he found "much company, it is the most thronged gap of the mountain. All from the lower counties enter here." On leaving the Kishacoquillas Valley he found the valley's western end "very narrow and vastly stony."

Darkness overtook him before he reached Standing Stone (Huntingdon) and he was not sure of his way until he passed two men whose breath was "strong of whiskey." Then he grew certain he was near the town.

The people he found living in dwellings ranging from mere dirty hovels to a stone house, "large and elegant," that of William Maclay at Sunbury. The contrast to this was one he described as smelling "like shambles" with "raw flesh and blood in every part . . . hounds licking up the blood from the floor . . . naked Indians and children . . . ten thousand flies . . . as many fleas." However, this home was not in Mifflin County.

Sleeping Troubles

He had much trouble resting in many of the beds he occupied and

was often "bemeasled with fleas." However, it was not so in all humble homes for he rejoiced one morning because he had "slept sound and fine without being disturbed by either a bug or a flea," although the house was as much surrounded by woods and brush as other houses, where through "carelessness" he was "wounded by numberless numbers of these leaping insects."

Another circumstance which gave him concern and embarrassment was the common sleeping quarters, and he wrote: "One thing here I don't like. In almost all of these rural cots I am under the necessity of sleeping in the same room with all the family. It seems indelicate, at least new, to strip, surrounded by different ages and sexes, and to rise in the morning in the blaze of day with the eyes of at least one blinking Irish female searching out subjects for remark." However, in some places he chided himself for sleeping late, till six and seven o'clock.

He found "great plainness and familiarity in conversation" almost every man calling his relatives and acquaintances by their first names without prefixing the customary compliment of "My Dear," "Mr.," "Sir," etc.

A Frontier Marriage

At one place in Kishacoquillas Valley he attended a marriage, but strange to say, he did not officiate. Squire Brown performed the ceremony. When they arrived at the little cabin there were four men, four women and four children. All continued eating and Fithian could not pick out the prospective bride and groom. After dinner the "youthful pair" singled themselves out. "The girl looked ashamed, though lusty. She held down her head, a coarse fan before her eyes, yet I saw in her dancing eyes . . . that they only accorded with her transported heart," he wrote. The groom in appearance was "a scurvy, futile, unmeaning drill. He seemed pleased, but a vulgar looking, ragged, weather-worn peasant."

The women helped in the harvest fields, he found, and remarked that it was the universal custom in the back woods for women to go barefooted. Men wore "mockisons," or Indian shoes.

The menu he found varied with the circumstances of the family. One place he breakfasted on tea, boiled in a dinner-pot of 10 or 15 gallons capacity from which it was poured out into tin cups. He had with it boiled potatoes and huckleberry pie. Another place he was treated to a dish of huckleberries with a "dish of well-made clear coffee, which is here a rare repast."

Clean and Smart in the K. V.

"Cleanliness and smartness" were visible in the hamlet in which he stayed in the Kishacoquillas Valley and all was suitable but "going to bed and rising in the same room and in full view of the whole family. This, to be sure, puts me to the blush," Fithian wrote in his journal. Then he described the menus he enjoyed while in the Valley. Many places he had had meat in the form of game, but here there was no meat of any kind. Breakfasts were milk with bread and butter. For dinner the bread and milk menu had the addition of "cymbalines" or doughnuts. For supper there was only "paste and milk," a local name for boiled thickened milk, also called "pap." Even on this simple fare he feared he was growing fat.

In some places he found farming on a rather extensive scale for those early times. Captain James Potter in Penns Valley owned 6000 acres of land and Fithian thought he had "too extensive a scope of business" with four men servants and two boys, 200 acres of land cleared, "much more cutting down," two plows going, a pair of oxen in one, and two horses in the other. The crops consisted of oats, flax, wheat and rye. In the Captain's home he found quite a library, including Justice Blackstone's Commentaries, Pope's Works, Harvey's Meditations and many theological tracts. Captain Potter's home was far beyond the average in accommodations, but Fithian had one unpleasant experience while there. On Sunday morning he arose early to find that the clean linen he had carefully laid on the table at the head

of the bed just inside an open window in preparation for dressing for the day's services had been the bed o a dog which had jumped in through the window. The fact that the dog was "dripping with water and mud" caused Fithian to feel enraged, however, he bore it with a "Sabbath Day's moderation." Capt. Potter had been a Captain in the Forbes Expedition of 1758.

While in Kishacoquillas Valley Fithian visited the farm of a Mr. Cuthbertson. The harvest that year had amounted to 900 dozen sheaves of wheat and 100 dozen of rye.

At Squire Brown's he found a pleasant spot on the creek and very near the mountain, where there was a gap through which ran the creek and the public road to Juniata. There the squire had a grist mill, a saw mill, a large farm, and was carrying on an extensive business.

Caverns of K. V. Noted in 1775

Fithian was much interested in the natural curiosities of the Kishacoquillas Valley and explored and described at length the caves he found there, even estimating the depth of a cavern by the time it took for the sound of a falling stone to reach him. Another of the caves was located on a hill east of the present Milroy from which Squire Brown told him the residents thereabout had secured ice late in July. That Summer had followed a mild winter and no ice had been formed in the cave.

The third cave was the present Alexander Caverns and he observed: "Mr. Alexander's house stands over Water where a boat of two ton would float."

He also mentions seeing two kinds of minerals found in the valley, crystals and brimstone, the latter having been found low in the earth in veins in a hard white stone and very pure. The piece he saw "burned very clear and entire."

Although this was the frontier, it is interesting to note that on the morning of Aug. 11, 1775 between 12 and 3 he arose with the family to view a partial eclipse of the moon.

There were no newspapers published in Mifflin County until some time after the establishment of the county seat. During the period covered by this history communication was principally by word of mouth and letter carried by the crude and slow moving post of the colonial period. What newspapers came were those of Philadelphia or other seaboard cities. Fithian in his journal (p.42) tells of reading the "Pennsylvania Packet" when he reached Sunbury on his missionary journey which later carried him through the Kishacoquillas Valley. When the post came into Sunbury on July 2, 1775, he writes of reading in the papers accounts of the Battle of Bunker Hill which occurred on June 17 and of General Washington leaving Philadelphia for "the North American camp" of which he took command on July 3.

Fithian had no other word of the progress of the war until August 10 when he reached Squire Brown's (Reedsville) where he learned "That nothing material since the Skirmish at Bunker's Hill, has taken Place between the Armies at Boston." (Journal, p.93).

His next word was at Huntingdon where he saw a paper and read that General Gage had resigned command of the British forces to General Howe.

CHAPTER 5—THE REVOLUTION

Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year . . .

You know the rest. In the books you have read,
How the British Regulars fired and fled,—
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farm-yard wall,
Chasing the red-coats down the lane . . .

From The Ride of Paul Revere
By Henry W. Longfellow

All Quiet on The Western Front(ier)

In August of "Seventy-five" Paul Revere's ride was four months in the past, the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill were history, and Ticonderoga had fallen to Ethan Allen, "In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." But in that month Rev. Philip Fithian found all quiet in Mifflin County when he passed through the Kishacoquillas Valley on his missionary journey. In his journal of that trip he leaves the only recorded account of conditions in this particular part of Pennsylvania in the Summer of 1775.

However, it is more from his omission of any mention of alarm among the settlers in the valley than from anything he writes that leads one to the conclusion that the people of Mifflin County were hardly considering the possibility of the war really affecting them.

Fithian was more interested in news of the war than were those among whom he was traveling. Authentic news of the conflict was obtained at only occasional points on his journey through the frontier.

On Wednesday, August 9, he arrived at the home of Squire Brown at Reedsville and his observations as recorded in his printed journal (pp. 93-94): "I have heard no News from below since I left Chilisquaque. The 'Squire has some. He tells me that a Ship has been brought into Philadelphia, loaded, from Britain, with Powder & Arms, destined to the Southward, for the Negroes—

"That nothing material since the Skirmish at Bunker's Hill, has taken Place between the Armies at Boston —That a Ship from Bristol, loaded with Goods, has been lately burnt with her Cargo, near Baltimore. That the camp, & remaining Inhabitants in Boston are sickly & dying daily."

Rumors of War

At Huntingdon Fithian "saw a late Paper—It is said that his Excellency Gage has resigned his Commission to General Howe—is lying ill of a Fever at the Door of Death—has allow'd the Women & Children to leave the Town of Boston but leave all their Effects in it—That the Army & Navy are in great Distress by Sickness. 'Squire Hall—told me further that many in this Town & Neighborhood are under present alarming Apprehensions of Danger from the Indians! It is certain that Indians have strong Temptations, the Governor of Canada with all his agents are employed & Bribed to set them on us!"

In the eastern part of the State the Continental Congress in May had decided to recruit an army and set Pennsylvania's quota at 4300 men. The Committee of Safety had been formed and in June Congress directed that eight companies of expert riflemen be raised in Pennsylvania.

Historian Linn says: "Within 10 days after news of the battle of Bunker Hill had reached the Province of Pennsylvania her first rifle regiment was officered and completed, many of the eight companies numbering 100 men." (A History of the Juniata Valley, 1913, p.237). Among the captains was Robert

Cluggage, and, when Fithian reached Fort Shirley on August 25, he found Cluggage's mother's "tears were not yet dried since his departure." There he also received "Intelligence that General Gage in some Fit of Surprize, has burned down the Town of Boston, & with all his Army, is gone off—!

"This, in my Opinion, wants Confirmation, it came by an unprinted Letter." (Fithian p.117,118). His doubt of this rumor was well founded.

Earlier on his trip while in the vicinity of Northumberland he had received a request to conduct a service of prayer on July 20, a day which had been set aside by Congress following the defeat of Bunker Hill on June 17 as a "Day of Public Humiliation, Fasting & Prayer, that we may have United Hearts, & Voices . . . & to bless our rightful sovereign King George the Third, & inspire him with Wisdom and to discern & persue the true Interests of all his Subjects, that a speedy End may be put to the "civil Discord" between Great Britain and the American Colonies . . ." (Fithian p.41). He conducted the service in a partly finished house before a large audience "in great Fear & Dread." (Fithian p.64).

First Enlistments from Mifflin County

But the inhabitants of the frontier were so far removed from the actual conflict and means of communication so slow that even two months after Bunker Hill they did not share his "Fear & Dread," although there is record of two men from Mifflin County in the rifle companies under Captain William Hendricks (Perry County) and Captain Robert Cluggage (Huntingdon County). The Colonel was William Thompson of Carlisle. Andrew Small served under Hendricks and John Davis under Cluggage.

Captain Hendrick's company went to Cambridge, then to Quebec on the disastrous expedition to attempt the capture of that British stronghold.

A description of these riflemen in Thatcher's Military Journal of the Revolution is given here for it would as well fit many of those who served in other companies from this county: "They were stout and hardy men, many of them exceeding six feet in height. They are dressed in rifle shirts and round hats. These men are remarkable for the accuracy of their aim, striking a mark with great certainty at 200 yards distance. At a review a company of them, while on a quick advance, fired their balls into objects of seven inches diameter, at a distance of 250 yards. They are now stationed on our lines and their shot have frequently proved fatal to British officers and soldiers who have exposed themselves to view, even at more than double the distance of common musket shot."

Capt. Adams First Mifflin Countian to Fall

The Sixth Pennsylvania Battalion, commanded by Col. William Irvine, was one of a number of battalions organized in January 1776. The eighth company of this battalion was commanded by Captain Robert Adams with William Bratton at First Lieutenant and a number of other Mifflin County men in the company. It was the first company to be raised on the Juniata. The company went to Quebec where Captain Adams was killed at Isle Oxnaux on June 21, 1776, the first Mifflin Countain killed in the Revolution and the only one of whom there is record as being killed on the Continental Line. This battalion was reorganized in January 1777 and became the Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment. The men were discharged in 1781.

Captain John McElhatton took a company made up mostly of Mifflin County men to New York in August 1776 under Col. Frederick Watts. The company met at Oldtown (Lewistown) and from there marched to New York, where they arrived durin the battle of Long Island, August 26, 1776. During this campaign Capt. McElhatton was taken prisoner.

Called to Arms from Harvest Field

Among members of Captain McElhatton's company was James Galloway, a resident of Wayne Township, who, in his application for a pension in 1832, tells of the circumstances of his enlistment. It was about the latter part of harvest in July 1776 while he was the leader of 30 harvest hands

reaping his father's grain, that James Adams, captain of the militia to which Galloway belonged, came into the field to procure volunteers against the British. Galloway told Captain Adams that he would go as soon as the harvest was over. Captain Adams asked for the sickle. Galloway gave it to him, went home and made two pair of moccasins. The next day Galloway marched with the company to Carlisle. They reached New York during the battle of Long Island, August 26, 1776, according to the account of his service James Galloway gives in his pension application.

In December, Captain James Adams took a company of Mifflin County men to New Jersey. They were followed in January 1777 by a company under the command of Captain Arthur Buchanan, son of the first settler, Arthur Buchanan Sr. The two companies were rushed there when the British forces invaded New Jersey. They spent some time about Princeton but apparently did not arrive until after the Battle of Princeton. One of the members of Capt. Adams company, Thomas Thompson, in his pension application speaks of a "distressing time" in 1777 and says that "handbills were sent throughout the state asking for men to turn out."

Up to this time all the fighting had been on the Continental Line and the chief concern was to send men to fight the British on the seaboard. However, the situation was changing and these companies were ordered back to protect the frontier.

June 1, 1777, the British officer at Detroit began sending Indians against the frontier and in the same month the first attack in the Mifflin County section was at Standing Stone (Huntingdon). Fortunately the Indians were only in Mifflin County a few times during the Revolution and no massacres occured within the county limits. That month Capt. Buchanan took a company of 50 men to Frankstown against the Indians, the first time Mifflin County men had turned their attention to defending the frontier against the inroads of the British-inspired Indians. During the balance of that year and early in 1778 some men were sent to the Continental Line but after the Spring of 1778 the frontier demanded the attention of all available forces from the county.

Militia Organized

July 31, 1777, the Fifth Battalion of Cumberland County Militia was organized with Arthur Buchanan as Colonel, Alexander Brown as Lt. Colonel and Alexander McElhatton as Major. It was composed entirely of men drafted from Mifflin County. The principal purpose of the militia was the protection of the frontier. Of the eight companies no more than two were to be in service at any one time. Each period of service was for two months. The men were taken out on scouting tours.

The captains of the Fifth Battalion with their services were as follows:

Company Captain	Service
1. Alexander McCoy	July 1777
2. William Wilson	Sept. 1777
3. Henry Taylor	Oct. 1777
4. James Adams	Oct. 1777
5. Thomas Thompson	Jan. 1778
6. Samuel Holliday	Jan. 1778
7. Thomas Alexander	March 1778
8. George Bell	March 1778

A complete list of the men in these companies is given in Penna. Archives Series 5, Vol. 6.

Four of these companies were sent to fight on the Continental Line. James McDowell, a member of Alexander McCoy's company, in his pension application tells of the movement of that company which went to Marcus Hook where it fell in with the regular army and was sent to Wilmington and from there to the Battle of Brandywine. Following the battle which was a decisive defeat for the Continentals, the company was assigned to "meet and annoy the British on the march from Brandywine into Philadelphia." They had a scrimmage with the British cavalry and later went as guard for the wounded to Reading.

Captain James Adams' company was sent to Philadelphia in October 1777.

Captain Thompson's company went to Valley Forge in January 1778 and was on other duty outside of Philadelphia which was then in the possession of the British. While Congress was in session in Lancaster, the

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company was marched there, paid off in Continental money and discharged in March 1778.

Forage Stall-Fed Beeves for Valley Forge

William Ward, a member of this company, relates interestingly of his experiences in his pension application. They went to the headquarters of General Lacy in Bucks County. "Here I was detailed in a foraging party sent up the Delaware as far as Charots Ferry to guard a drove of stall fed beeves to General Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge. Then we returned to General Lacy's headquarters. Lacy's brigade was ordered to go through Bucks County and collect all horses fit for service. We got 300 and sent them to Washington's headquarters. During this time we were frequently on scout duty near the British lines, often in sight of the picket guards."

The fourth company of the Fifth Battalion sent east was that of Capt. Holliday which went via Carlisle and Lancaster to Bucks County, passing Washington's army at Valley Forge. After a two-months service there they returned home.

While the Indians never drove the settlers from Mifflin County during the Revolution, Centre and Huntingdon Counties were the frontier and Penns Valley, just across the Seven Mountains, was deserted once or twice. On two occasions Indians were seen in the Kishacoquillas Valley (June 1778 and July 1779) and once in Jacks Valley (May 1782). From the first massacres in June 1777 until the militia was discharged in 1783 the men were ready to march at the sound of alarm when they were called by their captains to the "defense of the frontier."

Alarm of Indians Comes to Meeting House

Captain Robert Means in his pension application tells of such a call during August 1777: "The alarm came that the Indians had made another appearance in Penns Valley and that General Potter's family was in danger. The alarm came to the meeting house on Sunday and I with a number of others armed ourselves and marched to Potter's Fort . . . We were garrisoned at the fort for a short time and protected General Potter in getting in his harvest. We continued the scout to Bald Eagle (now Milesburg) but did not come up with the Indians."

Old Town (Lewistown) and Carlisle were frequent points of rendezvous for the militia companies when they were called out and Squire William Brown's (Reedsville) was often the starting place of a tour of duty and the place where the company broke up at the end of the tour. Squire Brown was a commissary and frequently sent pack horses from the Kishacoquillas Valley over the mountains to Penn Valley with rations and supplies for the troops stationed there.

Some of the inhabitants "drove" and were given credit for this service on their tax assessments. This evidently refe..red to driving teams with grain, etc., to Lancaster, Valley Forge and other places where the Continentals were engaged in fighting the British.

When called out the militia often ranged to notify the inhabitants of the approach of Indians and on other occasions they were in pursuit of the Indians. A number of times they ranged from Hugh Martin's in Kishacoquillas Valley to Potters Fort. The tours of duty were fatiguing and dangerous, and good woodsmen and good marksmen were needed. Some times they furnished their own arms, clothing and provisions while on tours.

No Tories in Mifflin County

A number of the tours took militia from Mifflin County to Huntingdon County against Tories there. Fortunately Mifflin County was never troubled with Tories. Other tours in that direction were for the purpose of protecting the lead mines in Sinking Valley, Blair County, where Fort Roberdeau had been located to protect one of the principal sources of lead for the Continental Army. The system of militia proved very effective in protecting the frontier. Some men volunteered, others were drafted for service, while some furnished substitutes. Some served one week

per month, others two days a week. Rangers were especially active in the Kishacoquillas Valley from April to November when it was necessary for the settlers to be in the fields attending to their crops and thus exposing themselves to the danger of Indian attack. Guards were always stationed in Kishacoquillas Valley and in Penns Valley during the harvest in the Kishacoquillas Valley. The companies which ranged in the Kishacoquillas Valley 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782 are listed at the end of this chapter.

1778 Critical Period for Frontier

The period of April-June 1778 was one of the most critical for the Pennsylvania frontier, climaxed by the Wyoming Massacre and the "Great Runaway." While the actual massacres occurred farther to the north and east and Mifflin County settlers did not participate in the "Great Runaway," it was a time of anxiety and fear. Colonial Records and Pennsylvania Archives give a rather detailed account of this critical period. On April 24 Lt. Carothers (Carlisle) wrote President Wharton of the Supreme Executive Council that he had sent the marching classes of the Fifth Battalion to Sinking Valley (Blair County) and Bald Eagle (Milesburg), Captain Thomas Alexander's company of Mifflin County going to Sinking Valley and Captain George Bell's company being detailed to Bald Eagle. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 6, p.438). But Lt. Carothers wrote that more help was needed and asked for muskets or rifles.

Saturday, May 9, Col. Arthur Buchanan wrote from "Old Town, Juniata" (Lewistown) to George Stewart (Tuscarora): "I this moment recd. by Robert Moor (Moore) Express, a Letter from Capn. Bell, stationed at Bauld Eagle Which informs me that Simon Vaught (Waugh), one of his company was killed on the 8th. Instant, at the house of Jones (Jonas) Davis, upon Bald Eagle Creek." (Penna. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 6, p.485) Buchanan also told that Moore on his way to Old Town found the bodies of a family named Stanford at their cabin in Penns Valley. The Indians had killed them the day before. He asked Stewart for ammunition and arms. This is verified from independent sources in the pension applications of Frederick Baum and David Barr.

On May 11, 1778, Col. Buchanan, writing from Kishacoquillas Valley, told Lt. Carothers that he had received a Penns Valley express by Major Miles telling that the Indians had murdered Stanford and family on Friday. He asked for arms. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 6, p.487).

The minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, meeting at Lancaster on May 16, tell of receiving word of these murders. The council wrote to the Board of War at York about the murders and said that arms were needed.

Murder on the Frontier

Col. James Potter wrote two letters from Upper Fort, Penns Valley (now called Old Fort) on May 17. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 6, p.517). One was to Major General Armstrong at Carlisle and told of additional murders to the north and the need for men. The other went to Stewart at Tuscarora, saying, "The bearer Major Myles goes to you for a supply of men to relieve Capt. Bell." It told of how the interior would suffer if the frontier fell. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 6, pp.516, 517) May 21 the council wrote Lt. Carothers that the Board of War was sending 48 rifles, 12 of which were for Cumberland County. Some flints were sent later. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 6, p.539).

May 26 Lt. Hunter wrote from Sunbury to the council that on the 16th near the mouth of Bald Eagle Creek, three men putting in a spring crop were killed. Lt. Carothers, two days later wrote from East Pennsborough that the Indians were continuing their savage cruelty upon the frontier and that the bearer, Col. Buchanan, would tell of the need for arms.

Col. Buchanan Pleads Before Supreme Executive Council

The meeting of the Supreme Executive Council on June 3, 1778, was the occasion of Col. Buchanan's personal appearance and his plea for rifles which were badly needed. His presence accomplished what a num-

ber of letters had not done, the council was sufficiently impressed with his plea and statement of the conditions on the frontier that 50 rifles were given him. (Colonial Records, Vol. 11, p.506).

However, by June 17 conditions were no better for Col. Buchanan, writing to Stewart from Kishacoquillas said that a letter from Col. Potter told of Indian killings in Nittany Valley and that the fresh tracks of 30 Indians had been seen in Logan's Gap. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 6, p.603). June 23 Maj. Gen. Armstrong wrote from Carlisle to the council that there was still trouble with the Indians and that there was need of men and arms. In reply 200 muskets were sent and parts of the 4th and 7th battalions were sent to Kishacoquillas and Standing Stone to relieve Captain Bell and Captain Alexander. Conditions had much improved by July 25, 1778, in Penns Valley for the settlers had returned and were cutting grain.

Indians in Kishacoquillas Valley

The following Summer, 1779, was another critical time for the frontier. Indians were seen in the Kishacoquillas Valley in July of that year. In May Col. Buchanan had refused to take Mifflin men to Fort Robërdeau at the lead mines because they were needed at home. (Penna. Archives, Series 1, Vol. 10, p.159).

Frederick Baum in his pension application says that in the spring of 1779 General James Potter sent over to Captain William Lamb, of Lewistown, for assistance to move his family. A number of men went over to Penns Valley and made the general a large canoe and took Potters down Penns Creek.

In April 1780 Arthur Buchanan was made a sub-lieutenant of Militia for Cumberland County.

In May 1780 the Cumberland County Militia was reorganized, the part now Mifflin County being organized as the Eighth Battalion. Some of the captains were changed. The services were for two months but each company was divided into eight classes and only one or two classes were called out at a time, giving the settlers intervals during which they might be at home attending to their crops.

The captains of this battalion and their services follow:

Company Captain	Service
1. Samuel Holliday	June 1781
2. Joseph Brown	
3. Robert Samuels	April 1782
4. John Fleming	April 1782
5. William Lamb	April 1782
6. Hugh McClelland	April 1782
7. Robert Means	Aug. 1780
	June 1781
8. William Wilson	April 1780
	April 1781

June 1781 a number of Mifflin County men joined Captain John Boyd's Bedford Rangers, enlisting under Lt. Richard Johnston. Fortunately they arrived after the company had fallen into an ambush near Frankstown and Captain Boyd had been taken prisoner and a number of his company killed. Some of the local men were in service with this company through the winter, being discharged in the Spring of 1783.

Inhabitants "Forted" for Protection

During this time the inhabitants "forted" at a number of places in the county, at homes so located and constructed as to provide places of refuge for the settlers when Indian attacks threatened, places which could be defended by the militia. In 1781 such places in Derry Township, including all the present county south of Jacks Mountain, were the following:

John Bratton (Bratton Township)
George Galloway (Wayne Township)
William Junkin (Bratton Township)
Hugh Larrimore (Vira, Little Valley)
Samuel Holliday (McVeytown)
Matthew Kelley (Dry Valley, Derry Township)
Robert Samuels (across the river from Ryde)

"Stations," where troops assembled when called out for a tour of duty, included the homes of Robert Means in Ferguson Valley; George Sigler in Jacks Valley, Decatur Township; and Samuel Milliken in Kishacoquillas Valley.

Attacks Continue After Cornwallis Surrenders

Although Cornwallis surrendered October 19, 1781, the war was not over for the settlers on the frontier.

Even though the British may have tried to call off their Indian allies, they were not successful and attacks continued on the frontier. The only time Indians were reported in Jacks Valley was in the Spring of 1782.

George Sigler Captured

This visit resulted in the capture of George Sigler Jr. near the home of his father in what is now Decatur Township near Jacks Mountain in May 1782.

Contrary to the tradition concerning Sigler's capture as given in the History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, p.554, it took place in May 1782 instead of July 1775, proof of the time having been found in three applications for pensions by members of the Cumberland County Militia who were called out to go in pursuit of the Indians. These applications were those of James Glasgow, Robert Means and Frederick Baum, who 50 years after the abduction and chase after the Indians, related in their depositions that they followed the trail of the Indians to Bald Eagle in 1782.

Sigler was a youth of 20 years at the time. Rumors of Indians in the vicinity caused him to volunteer to go to the home of a neighbor, George Bell, and ascertain whether the rumors were based on fact. Before reaching Bell's the rumors were confirmed, but Sigler did not carry the word back to his father, having been taken captive by a roving band of Indians who carried him to Canada where he was released in a general exchange of prisoners about a year later. He returned home and lived on the home farm until his death in 1821, at the age of 59. The Sigler farm was located near the head of Long Meadow Run (north of Alfarata) at the foot of Jacks Mountain in Decatur Township.

Traditions tell of the capture of three other persons, all residents of Kishacoquillas Valley, but no documentary evidence has been found to confirm the traditions. Robert McNitt, aged eight years, son of Alexander McNitt is said to have been taken by Indians from the eastern end of Kishacoquillas Valley and carried into Canada where he was kept three years before being returned. The year 1777 is given as the time of this capture. Some of the traditions couple this abduction with an attack made on the Mathias Ruble home, others say the attack on the Ruble home was at the time of the capture of Sigler. Certainly these abductions could not have been by the same party of Indians, for Sigler's account does not mention any other captives whom he knew, although he does mention a white girl being with a group of Indians who joined those who had seized him.

Robert Ricketts relates that while in Kishacoquillas Valley in 1782 his squad overtook a number of Indians in Glade Valley who were drying meat from nine horses they had taken and killed.

Another tradition says that the Indians hid in the cave at the mouth of Honey Creek the night before they captured Sigler near his home on the other side of Jacks Mountain.

James Wilson and his son John, aged 12, were taken by Indians from a harvest field near the present Siglerville, according to tradition (History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, p.641), but no mention is made of the time of the abduction. The account says the father was held in Canada until exchanged by a treaty, the son having escaped earlier.

It is significant that of the 50 pension applications by soldiers who served from Mifflin County during the Revolution none mention any of these three abductions, while three of the veterans making application in 1832 tell of the capture of Sigler and the pursuit in which they took part.

Peace Finally Comes to the Frontier

Sigler's capture is the last record of Indians having been in Mifflin County or of any threatened invasions by Indians and by March 1783 the situation had so quieted down that the militia was disbanded that month. Fighting on the Continental Line had ceased with the defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va., October 19, 1781, and the final peace treaty was signed in September 1783, bringing to a conclusion more than eight years of anxiety for the people of the frontier, who, although they never had

to face the Red Coats, were subjected to a more dreadful foe, the Indian, who was urged on by British bounties paid for scalps and prisoners.

Six from Mifflin County Killed in Action

There is record of at least six men from Mifflin County who lost their lives in the Revolution:

Captain Robert Adams died at Isle Oxnaux, Quebec, June 21, 1776. His widow was assessed in Armagh Twp. in 1778.

William Brotherton and Robert Nelson were killed at Clearfield in the fall of 1778 on a scouting expedition. Brotherton was a freeman in Armagh 1775-1778. Nelson was a freeman in Armagh 1778.

Daniel Carmichael of Wayne Township "left Derry to go to camp November 10, 1777" and never returned. He was last assessed in 1776. His widow was listed in 1778.

William Moore, according to tradition, died in the war. He was last assessed in Wayne 1778.

Simon Waugh, listed as a Derry freeman in 1778, was killed at Bald Eagle May 9, 1778.

Mifflin County Companies

The following recapitulation is a list of companies which were composed largely of men from Mifflin County:

Those sent against the British:

Date and Length of Service	Officer in Charge*	Place of Service
1776		
Jan.—12 mos.	Robert Adams	Quebec
Aug.— 2 mos.	John McElhatton	New York
Dec.— 2 mos.	James Adams	New Jersey
1777		
Jan.— 2 mos.	Arthur Buchanan	New Jersey
July— 2 mos.	Alexander McCoy	Philadelphia
Oct.— 2 mos.	James Adams	Philadelphia
1778		
Jan.— 2 mos.	Thomas Thompson	Valley Forge
Jan.— 2 mos.	Samuel Holliday	Valley Forge

Those sent against the Indians:

June— 2 weeks	Arthur Buchanan	Frankstown
Sept.— 2 mos.	William Wilson	Bald Eagle (Milesburg)
1778		
Jan.— 2 mos.	James Adams	Bald Eagle
Mar.— 2 mos.	George Bell	Bald Eagle
Mar.— 2 mos.	Thomas Alexander	Sinking Valley
June— 2 mos.	Robert Samuels	Bald Eagle
Sept.— 2 mos.	Thomas Blair (Lt.)	Sinking Valley
1779		
May— 2 mos.	Robert Samuels	Kishacoquillas V.
July— 2 mos.	Henry Taylor	Penns Valley
1780		
Apr.— 2 mos.	William Wilson	Potters Fort
June— 2 weeks	John McElhatton	Potters Fort
June— 6 mos.	Gilbert McCoy	Kishacoquillas V.
Aug.— 2 mos.	Robert Means	Potters Fort
1781		
Mar.— 2 weeks	Thomas Alexander	Sinking Valley
Apr.— 2 mos.	William Wilson	Penns Valley
June— 2 mos.	Samuel Holliday	Kishacoquillas V.
June— **6 mos.**	Richard Johnston (Lt.)	Bedford

Date and Length of Service	Officer in Charge*	Place of Service
1782		
Apr.— 2 mos.	Robert Samuels	Kishacoquillas V.
May— 2 weeks	Robert Means	Bald Eagle

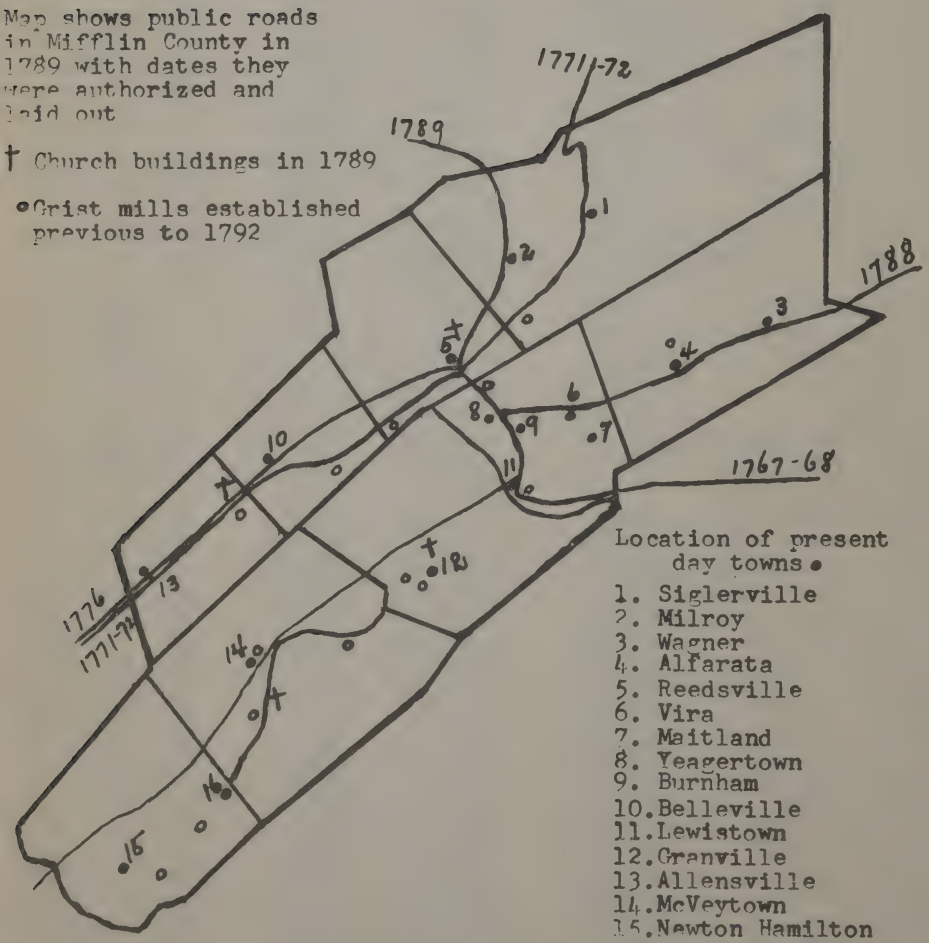
*Captain unless otherwise indicated.

Revolutionary War Pensioners

Research for this chapter included the personal examination by the authors of all applications for pensions made by men who served in the Revolution from what is now Mifflin County. In order to qualify for a pension the veteran appeared before a Justice of the Peace and under oath gave detailed account of his service, and names of all persons who could testify as to his service. The list below gives the names of these 50 applicants:

Name	Number of Application	Residence at time of Appl.	Year of Appl.	Age at time of Appl.	Place of Birth
Alford, John	S44290	Ohio	1818	67	.....
Allen, Peter	R134	Penna.°	1823	69	Irel.
Anderson, John	S2035	Ohio	1832	72	Penna.
Barr, David	S6564	Penna.	1833	82	Irel.
Barr, Robert	S6574	Penna.	1834	84	Irel.
Baum, Frederick	S6561	Penna.°	1832	71	Penna.
Beatty, John	W5803	Penna.	1818	62	.....
Beatty, John	S22644	Penna.°	1833	70	Irel.
Beatty, Walter	W5804	Tenn.	1818	68	.....
Bell, Arthur	S20738	New York	1832	79	Penna.
Bell, John	W9348	Kentucky	1832	82	Irel.
Blair, Thomas	W3068	Penna.	1788	33	.....
Blair, William	S21647	Illinois	1832	72	Penna.
Boyle, Robert	S5289	Penna.	1835	83	Irel.
Bratton, James	S4272	Ohio	1832	75	Penna.
Brown, Joseph	W8385	Kentucky	1833	78	.....
Burns, John	S35802	Kentucky	1818	69	.....
Calhoon, George	S30914	Kentucky	1832	78	Penna.
Cameron, Alexander	S6771	Penna.°	1834	70	Penna.
Campbell, Alexander	W4648	Penna.	1829	73	.....
Campbell, John	W9772	Ohio	1833	76	Irel.
Chapman, Amos	S35828	Kentucky	1818	72	.....
Davis, John	S16361	Kentucky	1832	79	.....
Dickey, Moses	S8331	Ohio	1834	80	Irel.
Drennen, William	S15816	Missouri	1834	75	Penna.
Ferguson, Thomas	S31023	Kentucky	1833	72	Penna.
Galloway, James	S2232	Ohio	1832	82	.....
Glasgow, James	W25633	Penna.°	1834	71	Penna.
Gunsalus, Richard	S23246	Penna.	1832	76	N. Y.
Holt, Thomas	S4400	Ohio	1832	71	Penna.
Howard, Gordon	S41657	Ohio	1827	74	.....
Johnston, John	R5633	Ohio	1835	103	Irel.
Livingstone, Daniel	S22361	Penna.	1833	76	.....
McDowell, James	S47832	Penna.°	1833	78	Irel.
McI(E)lhatton, Alex.	S17577	Ohio	1832	89	Penna.
Means, Robert	S22393	Penna.°	1834	83	Penna.
Millegan, Joseph	S16483	Kentucky	1832	77	Irel.
Morrison, James	S23816	Penna.	1833	89	Penna.

Name	Application Applica'n	Residence at time of Appl.	Year of Appl.	Age at time of Appl.	Place of Birth
Ricketts, Robert	S17047	Indiana	1832	67	Md.
Riden, John	S5987	Penna.°	1834	77	Penna.
Roll, Michael	S38340	Kentucky	1832	71	Penna.
Scott, John	S17077	Missouri	1834	103	Irel.
Sigler, John	R9565	Penna.°	1835	81	Penna.
Small, Andrew	S3945	Ohio	1832	76	Penna.
Thompson, John	S23020	New York	1832	67	Penna.
Thompson, John	S3792	Ohio	1832	67	Penna.
Thompson. Thomas	R10556	Ohio	1832	88	Penna.
Ward, William	S17181	Missouri	1833	76	Irel.
Westbrook, Richard	W9884	Missouri	1833	73	.....
White, John	S32590	Illinois	1833	91	Irel.



CHAPTER 6—RAPID DEVELOPMENT

A mighty nation moving west,
With all its steely sinews set
Against the living forest. Hear
The shouts, the shots of pioneer.

From Westward Ho!
By Joaquin Miller

The period from 1783 to 1789 was one of rapid development, following as it did the years of the Revolution. However, strange to say, there was a gain in population during the Revolution from 700 to 1750, while during the post-Revolution period leading up to the formation of the county the population remained stationary at 1750, due to a large migration westward.

The summary given below from the Cumberland County tax records of 1780 is an interesting list of land, livestock, slaves, mills, stills and other businesses assessed for taxation, including freemen, who were single men and taxed as such, in addition to land or other personal property they owned.

Summary of 1780 Assessments

	Armagh	Derry	Total Two Twps.°	Total for Cumberland County°°
Land (acres)	33,259	37,052	70,311	661,591
Horses (£10)	229	416	645	9,815
Cows (£4)	269	553	822	12,332
Negroes (£50)	10	17	27	455
Grist Mills	2	5	7	91
Saw Mills	....	2	2	69
Hemp Mills	....	....	....	4
Fulling Mills	....	....	....	5
Oil Mills	....	....	....	1
Tanneries	2	1	3	25
Ferries	....	....	....	2
Stills	4	20	24	294
Breweries	....	....	....	2
Plate, Oz. (silver)	....	14	14	509
Pleasure Carriages	....	....	....	9
Freemen	37	50	87	956

°Armagh Township included all Mifflin County north of Jacks Mountain, Derry Township all south of the mountain.

°°Cumberland County in 1780 included all of the present counties of Cumberland, Perry, Juniata, Mifflin, and Franklin.

The original of Howell's map of 1792 shows 10 grist mills in Mifflin County at the time of the formation of the county. There were six in the Juniata Valley, one being on Jacks Creek, one on Kishacoquillas Creek, both near the mouths of these streams; another was on the south side of the Juniata at Lewistown Junction and three others were on the north side of the river west of Lewistown. Four mills are shown in the Kishacoquillas Valley, two near Reedsville, one being on Honey Creek and one on Tea Creek, while two others are shown on the north bank of Kishacoquillas Creek west of Reedsville.

1780's Wealthiest Men

The 1780 tax list includes the assessment of cash on hand and from that year's assessments, the following list of wealthiest men as to cash on hand was compiled. (Those over £100 are given):

Armagh Township

John Culbertson	£300
James Wilson	300
Elijah Crisswell	279
William Wilson	250
William Wilson (another)	250
James Calhoon	100

Derry Township

Marshall Stanley	£569
William McMullen	270
William Hamilton	224
James Armstrong	207
John Allett	200
John Frampton Jr.	180
Arthur Buchanan	177
Archibald Stewart	156
Jonas Baum	149

While the population was predominantly agricultural, during the years from 1767 to 1789 quite a number of other professions and occupations were listed including the following: Minister, school master, squire, weaver, shoemaker, tailor, mason, cordweaver, wheelwright, tanner, smith, joiner, sawyer, miller, cooper, laborer, mechanic, cropper, maltster, and distiller.

July 1782 Wayne Township was formed on petition of residents of Derry Township living in what are now Bratton, Oliver and Wayne Townships. Brightwell's (Strodes) Run was the dividing line between the two townships on the north side of the river, continuing from the mouth of the run directly across the river to the mountain. The township was named for one of the popular Revolutionary heroes of that day, General (Mad) Anthony Wayne. The only township officer listed in 178: is William Giffin, Constable. In 1784 Giffin is again Constable; Alexander McKinstry and Stephen White, Supervisors of Roads; Samuel McGeehan and William Robinson, Overseers of Poor.

First Voting Places

The first mention of voting places for Mifflin Countains is after the start of the Revolution. The Provincial Conference, decided "that the present government of this province (Pennsylvania) is not competent to the exigencies of our affairs." This conference held in Carpenters Hall, Philadelphia, June 18 to 25, 1776, provided for an election to be held July 8 to form "a new government in this province on the authority of the people only." Robert Campbell's house "in Tuscarora" at the Middle Mill on Licking Creek was named as the place of voting for the residents of nine townships of Cumberland County, including Armagh and Derry, the two townships embracing what is now Mifflin County. The other seven townships included all of Juniata and Perry Counties and part of Centre County. William Brown, Alexander Morrow and James Taylor were named judges for this election and an oath renouncing allegiance to Great Britain and favoring a free government was required of all who voted.

Before the voters met that day, the "Fourth of July" with its signing of the Declaration of Independence had passed but it is doubtful whether any of the voters learned of this momentous event before they cast their ballots in the first state election ever held in the Juniata Valley.

The act of June 1777 established four voting districts for Cumberland County, fixing the voting place for "the freemen of Milford, Greenwood, Armagh, Leck (Lack), Derry and Farmanagh at the house of James Purdy in Farmanagh (Cuba Mills)."

The Act of March 23, 1778, stated: "It hath been found very inconvenient to the freemen of the townships of Armagh and Derry to attend the annual elections" and these two townships, then embracing all of the present Mifflin County, were made the Fifth District of Cumberland County and the house of Arthur Buchanan (Lewistown) established as the place of voting for this district. Hence, the election following this date was the first to have been held within the boundaries of Mifflin County.

On September 13, 1785, an act was passed "to reduce into one act" all previous provisions relating to elections, the first "Election Code" as it

were. It added the name of Wayne Township to the district including Derry and Armagh, Wayne having been erected in 1782. (History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, p.676).

Westward, Ho!

As mentioned above this was a period of a large migration out of the county to the westward, due to the opening of lands in Kentucky and Tennessee for settlement, immediately after the Revolution, and the organization of the North-west Territory in 1787, opening land for settlement in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and other states. The Ohio River afforded a ready means for this westward movement.

Turning again to the pension applications of soldiers who had served in the Revolution from Mifflin County, their places of residence at the time of application, which, in most cases, was in the 1830's show the trend of westward migration.

Of the 50 pensioners, who resided in Mifflin County between 1775 and 1783, their residences 50 years later were as follows: Mifflin County, 9; Pennsylvania, west of Mifflin County, 9; Ohio, 13; Kentucky, 9; Missouri, 4; western New York, 2; Illinois, 2; Indiana, 1; Tennessee, 1. There was also a large migration into Ohio in the 1830's which may have carried some of these men west.

The fact that but nine of the 50 were still residing in Mifflin County 50 years after the Revolution shows the large percentage of the population moving westward and accounts for the fact that although there were many new settlers coming into the county in the post-Revolution period, as many or more were leaving and the population remained the same in 1789 as it had been in 1783.

There are few contemporary descriptions of Mifflin County during this period on record. One is that of a traveler passing through in 1788 who recorded his impressions in the Columbia Magazine of August 1788, (p.417). Although it is rather uncomplimentary it is given herewith, describing first the passage through the Narrows as follows:

"The traveler has nothing to walk on for either himself or horse (which he is obliged to dismount for better security) than the piled rocks and stones that have from time to time accumulated by their fall from the surrounding parts.

"After passing through this miserable place (Narrows) immediately upon the other side, stands the town or settlement called Old Town, consisting only of a tavern and a few scattered hovels and containing nothing worth notice." This was written the year before Mifflin County was erected and the accuracy of his description cannot be questioned, although the "miserable place" he came through, just before reaching Old Town, may have prejudiced him somewhat against a settlement with such an approach.

First School Masters

There are no contemporary accounts of schools before 1789, with the exception of the fact that three men were assessed as school masters in that time. The only documentary evidence of even an intention to erect a building to be used for school purposes was found in the deed by which David Steel transferred two acres of land in what is now Granville Township to trustees, "appointed to represent and act for members of the Presbyterian congregation of the lower end of Derry Township," in which provision was made that Steel was to provide "as much timber as will be sufficient to build a house of worship and studyhouse." This indicated that the church erected thereon was to be used as a school in addition to being a "house of worship," a common practice in those days when the minister was usually the school master.

There is a tradition that a school house was erected on land of Andrew Bratton in what is now Bratton Township. The date given is 1780, which was about the time of that pioneer settler's death.

The first school master to be assessed was John Johnston in Derry Township in 1773. In 1779 John Wilson was assessed as a school master in Armagh Township and in 1780 William Ward is on the Armagh Township tax list as a school master.

According to tradition John Oliver was one of the early school masters. As there were two men assessed by that name, one of whom was not a farmer, it is probable that he may have been the school master.

First President and New County Same Year

April 30, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States and September 19 of that year the Assembly passed the act erecting Mifflin County from Cumberland County.

Mifflin County's formation was almost coincident with the adoption of the United States Constitution for it was in June 1788 that the Constitution was ratified by New Hampshire, the ninth and enabling state, and it was declared in effect the first Wednesday of March 1789. It was during this very period that the agitation for a new county was at its height, culminating on September 19, 1789, in the passage of the act which erected Mifflin County.

Perfect honesty would require acknowledgement that the word of the ratification of the Constitution was in all probability not received here with universal acclaim. John Fiske in his "Critical Period of American History," writes of the contest in the Pennsylvania General Assembly over the question of calling a state convention to ratify the Constitution and says in part: "The Antifederalists were strongest in the mountain districts west of the Susquehanna, where the somewhat lawless population looked askance at any plan that savored of a stronger government and a more regular collection of revenue."

The counties of Berks, Dauphin, Cumberland, Bedford, Fayette and Westmoreland cast 19 of the 23 negative votes in the assembly on the question of calling a state convention, and a historian remarks of these counties that they "were full of the wild spirit of the frontier."

These Scotch-Irish frontiersmen were distrustful, not of the Constitution but of the men who made it. It has been said of them that they "hated lawyers and were jealous of wealthy merchants." It was such a distrust which engendered the spirit which resulted in riots in the public square of Carlisle when the Federalists attempted to celebrate the ratification of the Constitution by Pennsylvania the day after Christmas 1787. Carlisle was then the county seat for what is now Mifflin County.

However, the result of the ratification of what Gladstone has so often been quoted as saying was the "most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man" was soon to be felt even on the remote frontier. In slightly more than a year Mifflin County was created and the development of the Juniata Valley really began.

Following the establishment of Mifflin County Courts in 1790 there was a rush of petitions for new roads. Before that time such petitions had to be presented at Carlisle. Now with a court within the county the settlers in many sections asked that public roads be opened into their localities.

The First Census

The first United States Census, taken in 1790, gives much valuable information regarding the county in its first year. However, it is somewhat difficult to pick out the part which is now Mifflin County, for the county then included all of Juniata County, and part of Centre County. The census is divided into that part of the county south of the Juniata River and that north of the river. This census, which has been published and is available in many libraries and can also be obtained from Washington, D. C., lists the heads of families by name, also giving the number of males over 16 years of age, number of males under 16, number of females, number of slaves and number of servants for each family. The reason for dividing the males into two age groups was to obain information which would be useful for military purposes, giving the number of an age to bear arms.

While the Amish and Mennonites came into the county quite early and today constitute one of the substantial and much respected groups of its population, they did not come into the county until after the time covered in this history. Not a single Amish name appears on the assess-

ment lists up to 1789. In 1792 land was warranted by Christian Zook in Union Township, the first time an Amish name appears on official records of the county.

A Glimpse of the "13th Year of American Independence"

A glimpse into the life of one of the families living in Mifflin County at the time of its formation is obtained by a reading of the will of George Sigler which has been chosen from among others of that time because it was written December 18, 1789, "in the thirteenth year of American Independence," and probated at Lewistown March 19, 1790, following his death. It is to be found in Will Book 1, No. 6, in the office of the Mifflin County Register and Recorder. The inventory filed in the settlement of this estate is especially interesting, listing as it does all the personal property of George Sigler, father of George Jr., who was captured by the Indians in 1782.

He bequeaths to his "well beloved wife Elizabeth Sigler her full maintenance on the plantation" on which he was living. To his oldest son, John Sigler, he wills all that he had already received and 10 shillings. To his "daughter Elizabeth one bed and clothes for said bed, one cow and calf with all her clothes and two sheep and 10 pounds in money." The rest of the estate, real and personal, was to be equally divided among his sons George, Henry, Jacob, Adam, and Samuel, when Samuel, the youngest had reached 21 (1795). The sons were to live together on the old homestead until that time. George Jr. was to buy the homestead and look after his mother. Each son was given one horned creature to be drawn by lot.

The inventory of the estate amounted to 327 pounds, 5 shillings, three pence. The inventory included the following: 11 cows, 17 steers, 1 bull, 10 heifers, 8 calves, 37 sheep, 12 hogs, 6 horses, 1 windmill, 1 wagon and gears, 35 acres wheat and rye, 2 sets plowirons, 1 collar, 3 forks, 1 shovel and spade, 3 axes, one harrow, 1 cutting box, 1 double tree, 1 old axe, 1 grindstone, 25 bushels wheat, 1 stove, 6 beehives, 3 beds, 1 chest, 6 plates, 2 basins, 1 pewterplate, 1 saddle, 3 bridles, 1 table, 1 cupboard, 5 bushels buckwheat, 10 bushels oats, 3 scythes, 1 iron kettle, 1 frying pan, 2 pots, 3 barrels, 30 gallons whiskey, 2 powdering tubs, 1 tramwell, 700 feet walnut boards, 200 feet cherry boards, 2 wash tubs, 1 pair saddle bags, notes on George Stroup, 100 bushels wheat, cash 15 pounds, 6cwt., hay, 2 grubbing hoes, 2 rings, 2 bells, 1 broad axe, 1 hand saw, 1 chisel, 4 hilling hoes, 12 bushels potatoes, half bushel measure, 8 bags, 2 hatchets, 1 bull's hide, 4 hides, 1 teakettle, smoothing irons, 1 lantern, sickles.

Five "Land Booms"

The warranting of land, as indicating times of development between 1755 and 1790, falls into five periods of new settlement with three lapses in between of as many as seven years in which no warrants were issued.

These periods and approximate number of warrants issued in each:

1755- —33 Warrants.
1756-61—None (French and Indian War).
1762-63—41 Warrants.
1764- —None (Pontiac's War).
1765-70—225.
1771- —None.
1772-76—50.
1777-83—None (Revolution).
1784-90—95.
Total—444.

The year 1766 was the time of the great rush for new land. That year 137 warrants were issued, three times the number in the next highest year, 1767, when 46 were issued. In 1789, only six warrants were issued and in 1790, only one, showing that the desirable land was practically all taken. A few years later many warrants were issued for mountain land, the market for lumber in the rapidly growing county evidently having made timber lands valuable enough to be worth warranting.

Taxes in the Early Days

New light is thrown on economic conditions in Mifflin County from 1767 to 1789 by a study of taxes levied. Of the six men whose names appear throughout that entire period, John Carmichael has been chosen as an example. While he was wealthier

than the average, his case is a good illustration. The first taxes were collected from Mifflin County in 1767 and John Carmichael was assessed as follows that year:

	£	s	d
100 acres warranted, of these 15 acres were cleared and the "rent" was listed at £ 1—land evaluation 60% of rent.	0	12	0
2 horses at 13s:4d	1	6	8
4 cows at 6s:8d	1	6	8
"Provincial rate"	3	5	4
"County rate"	3	0	0

While it is not clearly stated, apparently this was the evaluation of Carmichael's property. The tax rate seems to have been 1s:6d per pound. This would make Carmichael's provincial tax for 1767 4s:10-4/5d and the county tax 4s:6d. It must be remembered that the pioneers had little actual cash on hand.

The evaluation and provincial tax was about the same until 1776 when the provincial tax that Carmichael paid amounted to 6s:1-4/5d. The "County Rate" was raised to £4 in 1769, £6, 1770, £12, 1774. The Pennsylvania pound at this time was worth $2.66. In addition to land, horses, and cows, the early settlers were assessed for sheep, negroes, servants, mills.

Depreciation of the Currency

The table below showing John Carmichael's taxes gives an idea of the currency depreciation during the Revolution:

Property Valuation		Provincial Rate (Per £)	Tax Paid £ s d	Valuation of a Horse	Tax on a Horse
1767-76 (Ave.)	£ 4	18d	: 6: 0	£ 2/3	12d
1778	21	60	5: 5: 0	2/3	40
1779	1665	9	62: 8: 9	100	900
1780	15427	20	1285:11: 8	400	8000
1781	542	36	81:12: 0	10	360
1782	476	7½	14:17: 6	10	75
1783	459	3½	6:13:10½	10	35
1785-89 (Ave.)	390	1	1:12: 6	10	10

The valuation of, and tax on a horse, are shown to give some idea of the fluctuation of values. The county valuation 1767-76 ranged from £3 to £12, with the tax at 1s:6d per pound. From 1778 to 1782, the tax was 1s per pound; in 1783, 2s per pound of the total evaluation. From 1785 to 1789, the county tax was 1/6, 1/5, or 1/4 of the state tax.

In 1780, John Carmichael had £32:8:5 cash, (evidently "hard," not paper money). In 1789, his valuation was:

306 acres	£306
4 horses and six cows.....	50
2 negroes	90
1 still	6

The rate was 5/6d per pound making the state tax £1:6:10.

The tax rate was the same for the entire county until 1780, but beginning with that year, the rate varied with the township, as the table below shows:

(Rate in pence per pound.)

	Derry	Wayne	Armagh
1780	20	0	182
1781	36	0	60
1782	7 1/2	0	18
1783	6	3 1/2	26 1/2
1784	0	0	0
1785	1 9/16	1 1/12	9 1/48
1786	2	1	6
1787	1 5/8	1 1/10	7 7/12
1788	0	1	6
1789	1 3/4	5/6	2 1/4

0—No assessment.

The high Armagh rate was probably due to the cost of maintaining troops to guard the Kishacoquillas Valley against the Indians. During the Revolution, a number of additional war taxes were levied. The fluctuation in money values makes it difficult to place any actual value on it. Any errors in this discussion are due to wrong assumptions. In the early tax lists, the obvious facts were not always stated clearly. Pounds, shillings, and pence were used until about 1800.

Inhabitants Protest Taxes

The temper of the inhabitants of Derry and Wayne Townships is well illustrated in a number of petitions which were presented to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. January 31, 1784, "A petition from the inhabitants of the Townships of Derry and Wayne, in the county of Cumberland, was read setting forth, that since the commencement of the war, they have laboured under great disadvantages from the scarcity of a circulating currency, and praying an emission of paper currency may be established on a permanent foundation, so as to secure the value thereof." (Journal of the Assembly, 1784, p. 108).

Although the inhabitants of Armagh Township had the highest tax rates, it was those from Derry and Wayne who protested to the Assembly. March 14, 1786, "A petition from divers inhabitants of the east end of Derry Township in the county of Cumberland was read, setting forth their distressed situation, occasioned by the depredations of the Indians during the late war, and praying to be exempted from the payment of the arrearages of taxes." (Journal, 1786, page 209). A similar petition came from Wayne and Derry, August 29, 1786, (Journal, 1786, p. 279), and on November 14, 1787, 150 inhabitants of Wayne and Derry petitioned that they be exonerated from paying the taxes levied in 1781 and 1782 (Journal, 1787, p. 55).

Another difficulty the settlers had was to raise the money to pay for patenting their land. February 25, 1788, the inhabitants of Wayne Township petitioned the General Assembly for more time to pay for unpatented lands (Journal, 1788, p. 108).

First Demand for a New County in 1782

Demand for the establishment of a new county by the division of Cumberland County was heard by the General Assembly as early as 1782, when a petition was addressed "To the Honourable the Representatives of the Freemen of the state of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met . . ." This petition was that of "The Inhabitants on the north side of Tuscarora Mountain in Cumberland County . . ." and was presented September 12, 1782 (Journal of the Assembly, 1782, p. 698).

Because of this being the first known effort of the people of this part of Cumberland County to have a new county erected and because of the picture it gives of conditions in those days, the petition is given herewith in full:

"That your Petitioners Labouring under many Difficulties of Living from thirty to Seventy Miles from Carlisle, the seat of Justice for said County; and the Commerce of this part of the County, Depends Intirely on the River Juniata, So that we have no Business, at Carlisle, only to attend the Courts of Justice, which is so far, and the Roads so Exceeding bad over Two Large Mountains; thereby villians often goes unpunished by Reason that the Courts of Justice are at so great a Distance; and there is part of Bedford and Northumberland Countys that ly Convenient, to Join with us about Erecting a New County, So that your Petitioners, are under the Necessity to Petition your Honours, to lay of that Part of Cumberland County, which lies North, of the above said Tuscarora Mountain, and places Adjacent, into a separate County: and your Petitioners as in Duty Bound shall ever Pray."

This petition, the original of which is preserved in the Archives Bureau of the State Library, was dated 1782. The authors have a photostatic copy which shows the signature of 125 inhabitants living on the "north Side of Tuscarora Mountain in Cumberland County." At the same time a petition, almost identically worded, was presented from inhabitants of Berree (Barree) Township, Bedford County, asking that they be included in the new County for which the people north of Tuscarora Mountain had bound themselves to "ever Pray." This township (Barree) is now part of Huntingdon County.

The prayer was not granted until 1789 and in the meantime numerous petitions both for and against the erection of a new county north of Tuscarora Mountain had been received by the General Assembly.

The time of the first petition was

the closing year of the Revolution, for, although Cornwallis had surrendered, the previous fall, Indians were still raiding the frontier in 1782 and it was in that Summer that George Sigler was captured and carried into Canada. The General Assembly had other things to consider besides the erection of new counties and villians had to continue to go unpunished because of the great distance to the Courts of Justice.

Ten Petitions in 1785-89

The next evidence of desire for a new county was in 1785. On March 15, "divers inhabitants" residing on the north side of Tuscarora Mountain prayed for the division of Cumberland County (Journal of the Assembly, 1785, p. 210). The petition was similar to that of 1782. Two years later on February 26, 1787, the Pennsylvania Assembly received "petitions from a number of inhabitants of the county of Cumberland on the river Juniata and in Kishacoquillas Valley" praying to be annexed to the proposed Huntingdon County (Journal, 1787, p.122). However, when Huntingdon was formed, Juniata and Kishacoquillas were not included. Evidently, agitation for a new county increased, for on February 27, 1788, a petition was received by the General Assembly from 1726 inhabitants on the north side of Tuscarora Mountain asking for a new county (Journal, 1788, p. 111).

From September 1788, to September 1789, seven petitions having to do with the erection of the new county were presented to the General Assembly as follows (Journal, 1788, 1789):

September 9, 1788. Potter and Bald Eagle Townships, Northumberland County (now part of Centre County), praying for the formation of a new county and fixing Kishacoquillas as the seat of justice.

September 16, 1788. Two petitions from Greenwood Township (Perry County) and Penns Valley (Centre County) remonstrating against annexation to new county.

September 18, 1788. Upper Bald Eagle and Potter Townships (now Centre County), also one from Milford, Lack, Fermanagh, and Greenwood Townships (Juniata County), both remonstrating against being annexed to the new county.

February 6, 1789. Greenwood, Fermanagh, Milford, Lack, Wayne, Derry, and Armagh Townships, Cumberland County, praying for formation of a new county.

March 7, 1789. Greenwood, Fermanagh, Milford, Lack, Wayne, Derry, and Armagh Townships, 285 inhabitants praying for a division of Cumberland County.

September 4, 1789. A number of inhabitants of Potter and Upper Bald Eagle Townships (Centre County) petition that if a new county be formed and the seat of justice fixed at Old-Town (Lewistown) they be annexed to the new county.

September 7, 1789. Greenwood Township, Cumberland County inhabitants to the number of 111 petitioned against the annexation of the eastern part of said township to the proposed county.

At last the Assembly took action and on February 25, 1789, ordered a bill for a new county prepared. The county as formed in 1789 included the present counties of Juniata and Centre and all of the present Mifflin County, except the northeast and southwest corners. For several years the portion of Wayne Township south of the Juniata was included in Huntingdon County. Parts of eastern Armagh and northeast Decatur were included in Northumberland County when it was formed in 1772. They were not restored to Mifflin County until about 1812.

To have the extreme eastern end of Kishacoquillas Valley in Northumberland County with the rest of the valley in Cumberland County was not a natural boundary. This is brought out in a petition presented to the General Assembly March 24, 1778, from "A number of the inhabitants of Kishacoquillas Valley complaining of the line dividing" Cumberland and Northumberland (Journal, 1778, p. 199). Apparently no action was taken.

County Named for Thomas Mifflin

March 21, 1789, a bill erecting a new county passed second reading but opposition brought about by the question of the location of the county

seat prevented its final passage until after the Summer adjournment.

Finally, September 19, 1789, the act was passed, the preamble stating that the "inhabitants . . . labour under great hardships by reason of their great distance from present seat of justice and the public offices." The new county was named for Thomas Mifflin, soldier of the Revolution and statesman of the constitution period, who was a member of the Pennsylvania delegation to the Federal Constitution Convention and later president of the convention which drew up the constitution for Pennsylvania as a State of the Union. Thomas Mifflin was the first governor of Pennsylvania under that constitution. He was serving as President of the Supreme Executive Council when the act of September 19, 1789, was passed.

Following the circulation of the petitions in 1788 asking for the erection of a new county, the next step was the naming of delegates from the townships to be included in the new county who would meet and decide on a plan of organization and the manner in which the seat of justice was to be selected. Such delegates met and selected three disinterested persons, living outside of the territory, who were to decide on the location of the county seat. The bill which passed second reading in March 1789 named the three men selected by the delegates, "their judgment to be final and conclusive." After the bill passed the second reading the three men met and decided that John Harris' farm, where Mifflintown now stands should be the county seat.

Controversy Over County Seat

However, the residents "above the Narrows" (Mifflin County) were far from satisfied with the selection and their protests were largely responsible for the delay in final passage of the bill. They took steps to have additional territory to the north included in the new county and their efforts apparently brought the petition of September 4, 1789, mentioned above, in which Potter and Upper Bald Eagle Townships (now in Centre County) asked to be admitted provided Old-Town (Lewistown) was made the seat of justice.

When the bill passed third and final reading September 19, 1789, it included these two townships and left out Greenwood (Perry County) on the south. This threw the centre of the new county farther north. The bill named John Oliver, William Brown, Andrew Gregg, David Beale, John Stewart and David Bole, the first three living in the northern part of the new county, to decide on the location of the county seat. It was found after the passage of the act that Bole lived in Greenwood Township, the part left out of the new county and was therefore disqualified to act. The other two from the southern part of the county, seeing they were in the minority, refused to act. As it required four of the six to perform the act of selecting the county seat, finally, on April 5, 1790, an act was passed by the assembly naming Dr. James Armstrong in place of Bole. Armstrong, residing north of the narrows, sided with the other three from his part of the new county and the trustees of the new county gave notice that they had "received by bargain a quantity of land at the confluence of the river Juniata and the Kishacoquillas Creek and confirmed thereon a town for the Seat of Justice called Lewistown."

This of course did not satisfy the people residing south of the Narrows and the location of the county seat was a source of controversy until Juniata County was erected from Mifflin County in 1831.

George Wilson First Sheriff

George Wilson was the first Sheriff of Mifflin County, having been commissioned October 24, 1789. The first board of County Commissioners was composed of James Lyons, Robert Little and Enoch Hastings; Thomas Anderson was the first commissioners' clerk; Samuel Edmiston, the first Prothonotary, an office which then included all the duties of the clerks of all courts as well as the register of wills and recorder of deeds. James Taylor was the first coroner and Samuel Armstrong the first county treasurer. John Harris was apparently the first man to represent the new

county in the Legislature. Harris resided at what is now Mifflintown. The first election returns for the new county were certified to the Assembly October 15, 1789. The offices of assemblyman, sheriff, coroner, and commissioners were filled by election. The first representative to the General Assembly residing in what is now Mifflin County had been William Brown, who was elected 1780, 1781, 1783, 1784 from Cumberland County. John Oliver was a representative in 1787.

First Court Session

December 8, 1789, the first session of court was neld in the new county, the minutes of that session setting forth that "At a County Court of Common Pleas held at the dwelling house of Arthur Buchanan in Lewis Town in and for the county of Mifflin agreeably to an Act of General Assembly entitled an act for erecting certain parts of Cumberland and Northumberland counties into a separate County . . . Before William Brown, Esquire and his associate Justices of the same Court."

William Brown had been commissioned president judge November 14, 1789, by virtue of his being the senior Justice of the Peace in the County, such provision being made in the act erecting the county. Brown had been justice of the peace under King George III and had been appointed justice by the General Assembly September 3, 1776. His associate justices were William Bell, James Burns and William McCoy, the other Justices of the Peace in the County. Little business was transacted except to adopt rules for admission of attorneys, it being decided that such applicants "shall have served a regular clerkship to some practicing Attorney or Counselor of known abilities for the Term of Three years and be of full age." Applicants for admission to the bar were to be "certified by two Gentlemen of the Bar to be appointed by the court for that purpose" and they were to be admitted only if on "a full and impartial examination such person appears to be well grounded in the principles of Law and acquainted with the practices." They were also required to have taken the "oath or affirmation of Allegiance and fidelity to some one of said States." At this first session James Hamilton made a motion "on his own behalf" that he be admitted to the bar, and, on being administered the oath, then made the motion on which the following were admitted: Thomas Duncan, John Clark, George Fisher, Thomas Nesbit, David McKeehan and John Cadwallader.

At this session George Wilson produced his commission as High Sheriff from the Supreme Executive Council, also his writ of acceptance "where by it appeared that the said George Wilson had previously taken the several oaths of office prescribed by the Constitution of this State." (Mifflin County Court Records.)

March 8, 1790, the first session of Court of Quarter Sessions was held, the first Grand Jury presentments received and the following constables reported: William Mitchell, Derry; David Neely, Armagh; John McDowell, Wayne; Robert McKim, Potter; John Henderson, Fermanagh; James Boggs, Milford; the townships of Upper Bald Eagle, Lack and Greenwood being listed without names of constables in the court minutes. (Mifflin County Court Records.)

A County Seat is Laid Out

Samuel Edmiston and James Potter were named by the trustees of the county as surveyors to lay out the county seat, the trustees having been authorized to purchase 150 acres and lay out a town. However, back in 1787 one Mary Norris had entered judgment against Arthur Buchanan, owner of the land on which the county seat was to be laid out. The Sheriff of Cumberland County attempted to sell the land but was unsuccessful until November 27, 1790, when it was sold to Samuel Edmiston, one of the surveyors. In the meantime the town had been laid out in lots and a jail and courthouse was being erected, even before title had been obtained to the land.

CHAPTER 7—RELIGIOUS LIFE

Thou hast blest of old Thy servants
As they bore Thy Message far;
We who follow in their footsteps
Evermore their debtors are.

Presbyterian Foreign Mission Centennial Hymn

By Dr. Jay G. Eldridge

"The Scotch-Irish were fitted to be Americans from the very start," Theodore Roosevelt wrote in "Winning of The West." He added "They were kinsfolk of the Covenanters; they deemed it a religious duty to interpret their own Bible, and held for a divine right the election of their own clergy. For generations their whole ecclesiastical and scholastic systems had been fundamentally democratic." It was such a people who settled Mifflin County and defended it as the frontier until peace followed the Revolution and it was separated from "Mother Cumberland" as a new county in 1789.

In that year there were four churches and they were all Presbyterian for the first settlers were practically all of Scotch-Irish stock. They had brought their Bibles with their rifles and axes. Congregations were formed and "supplications" for supplies to come and preach in their homes or barns were sent regularly to the meetings of Donegal Presbytery from the time of Rev. Charles Beatty's missionary journey in 1766 until they were able to support ministers.

The history of these churches is in reality the story of the development of the Kishacoquillas and Juniata Valleys which led to the establishment of the new county.

The First Missionary

Fortunately the missionary journey of the Rev. Mr. Beatty and that of Rev. Philip Fithian, who followed him in 1775, were recorded in journals they wrote at the time. Beatty was sent out by the Synod of New York and Philadelphia together with Rev. George Duffield "to go together . . . and preach at least two months in those parts, and do what else is best for the advancement of religion" on the frontiers of the Province.

Their report shows " . . . that they found on the frontiers numbers of people earnestly desirous of forming themselves into congregations and declaring their willingness to exert their utmost in order to have the gospel preached among them, but in circumstances exceedingly distressing and necessitous from the late calamities of the war in these parts."

Beatty and Duffield separated at Port Royal and Beatty came up through the Narrows and along the Juniata to Aughwick and from there to Fort Littleton, where they joined again.

Beatty's journal was published in London in the year 1768 and is a very interesting account of his journey by the man who wrote on passing through this section, "There never was any sermon preached in this settlement before." While on the journey Beatty took original notes, which he later expanded into a manuscript journal and finally revised this second copy for publication in London. In recent years both his original notes made on the trip and the manuscript prepared from them have been found and they shed additional light on his experiences, some facts are mentioned in the original notes, which do not appear in either of the others while he included certain facts in the second copy of the journal which do not appear in the others. The same is true of the printed journal. He thought of events and facts of the trip when he was preparing it for publication which he had not written into either of the previous documents. Hence, all three are needed to tell the full story of this first missionary journey into what is now Mifflin County.

On August 25, 1766, 10 years after the destruction of Fort Granville, Beatty left Captain Patterson's, now Mexico, Juniata County, with Joseph Rupie, an interpreter, and Levi Hicks, who had been many years a captive among the Indians. He traveled eight miles to the Narrows over bad road and 10 miles through the Narrows to Kishacoquillas Creek where Lewistown now stands. Of the road through the Narrows he says: "The roadway bad, being on the bank of the river, a small path, and a great many trees fallen across it."

That day the party fed their horses at Thomas Holt's and Beatty in his printed journal adds the comment, "Near Thomas Holt's house stood Fort Granville," which locates the place of his first stop in Mifflin County. He makes no reference to the settlement at the mouth of the Kishacoquillas where Dorcas Holt Buchanan and several other families were then living.

The night of August 25 was spent at John McCartney's, 10 miles beyond Thomas Holt's, somewhere just east of McVeytown. The party was nearly lost in the dark and rain before coming onto McCartney's home where they were given shelter "and entertained in the best manner that was in the peoples' power," according to the printed journal.

The next morning, Tuesday, August 26, he crossed the river early and had breakfast at Andrew Bratton's on the south side of the river, where a church was later erected and where ruins of the old cemetery are now to be found. Later that day Beatty records preaching, but it was not at Andrew Bratton's, for in his original notes and in the manuscript prepared from them he states that the preaching was at Holliday's Mill, now McVeytown, founded by Samuel Holliday, brother-in-law of Andrew Bratton. The location of this first preaching is not definitely given in the printed journal but is very plain in the notes and journal prepared from them.

The First Sermon in these Parts

It was of this preaching service that Beatty writes in the manuscript journal: "There never was any sermon preached in this settlement before," while in the printed journal he writes that "it was the first sermon ever preached in these parts." Several children were baptized at this service, according to the printed journal.

After the sermon at Hollidays Mill, Beatty rode with a member of his congregation, Robert Samuels, to his home, four and one-half miles up the river and lodged there for the night. The Samuels home was located on the north bank of the Juniata just across the river from Ryde.

The morning of Wednesday, August 27, he baptized a child which was brought to the Samuels home, then rode to John Carmichael's, eight miles, just across the Juniata from the mouth of Aughwick Creek. This home was in the loop formed by the Juniata River on which is now located the Mount Union American Legion's Juniata Country Club golf course.

At the Carmichael home he preached his second sermon in what is now Mifflin County and baptized four children. The morning of August 28 he rode across the Juniata and traveled up Aughwick Creek, John Carmichael accompanying him half way to Fort Littleton, where he rejoined George Duffield.

Beatty Describes Juniata Settlement

In summarizing the religious situation in the settlement between the Narrows and Aughwick Creek, Beatty writes in his manuscript journal: "The settlement on both sides of river Juniata are new, extending 25 miles from the narrows to mouth of Aughwick and about seven miles broad in the centre containing at present about 80 families. A number more are expected to settle there in a little time. They propose to build a meeting house near Hollidays Mill, which is about the centre, and to join Kithaquaquilla or Great Valley, which is about 4 miles from the centre of Juniata settlement. This valley is about 30 miles long and five or six miles wide, and mostly very good land. At present, there are but five or six families settled in it, but more expected next spring. There never was any sermon preached in this settlement before." A foot note in the printed journal gives the advan-

tages possessed by the settlers along the river in having a means of getting their produce to market and adds, " . . . so that they will be able in some years, if peace continues to support a minister among them."

The above references to Beatty's printed journal will be found on pages 16 to 20. Access to the original notes made on the trail and the manuscript journal prepared from them was provided through the courtesy of the Presbyterian Church Department of History, Philadelphia. Other interesting references in the journal to the country, its people and their customs have been given in other chapters.

"Supplication" For Supplies

The time of Beatty's journey was the beginning of an era of rapid development of the Juniata Valley. The settlers were returning after being driven out by Pontiac's War and scores of new settlers were joining them. In July of the following year, Derry Township was formed and the tax lists of 1767 were the first to include settlers in what is now Mifflin County.

Although Rev. Charles Beatty made no mention of the settlement at the mouth of the Kishacoquillas when he passed through in 1766, the following April Donegal Presbytery received a "supplication" for supplies to be sent to the "north side of the Juniata above Narrows and Kishacoquillas (Valley)." Rev. John Slemmons of Lower Marsh Creek (Gettysburg) was appointed to preach at the Widow Buchanan's in September of 1767. For some reason the appointment was not kept.

First Service at Reedsville

However in November 1767 Rev. Robert Cooper of Middle Spring Church (near Shippensburg) preached at Squire William Brown's (Reedsville) as a supply sent out by the Presbytery; this was the first service held in this section after Beatty's journey.

From then on supplies were sent regularly to the two valleys. Rev. Mr. Slemmons preached in Kishacoquillas Valley in August 1768 and Rev. John Craighead of Rocky Spring Church (near Chambersburg) the same month at Robert Samuels, where Beatty had spent a night in 1766, and again in November in Kishacoquillas Valley. The same month Cooper preached at Hollidays Mill. From that time on supplies were sent regularly twice a year to these points.

In 1773 a "supplication" was received by Donegal Presbytery "from the people residing between Jack's Narrows and the long Narrows upon Juniata representing that they had agreed to have three places of public worship between the above extremities, viz. at the Mouth of Aughwick, near Hollidays Mill & near Capt. William Armstrong's and that when they obtain a stated pastor, his labors shall be equally divided among the three, notwithstanding any Difference in subscription and also requesting supplies."

Supplies to Lewistown and Belleville

While this plan was never placed in effect, that year Rev. Robert Huey, a missionary, was sent as a supply to preach at Captain William Armstrong's four miles west of Lewistown, the first supply to the congregation which later became known as Derry on Juniata, now Lewistown. Armstrong had been a captain in the Forbes expedition in 1758.

In 1774 supplications were received from East and West Ends of Kishacoquillas Valley and supplies were sent. This was the first time a supply preached near what is now Belleville in Robert Brotherton's barn, Rev. John Hoge of Virginia being sent there.

At the same meeting of Donegal Presbytery a "supplication" was received "from Capt. Armstrong's and mouth of Aughwick for a candidate to catechise and administer Lord's Supper." This was the second indication of the development of the religious life of the people of the Juniata Valley toward a place where they needed more than two or three sermons a year by supply ministers.

Second Missionary Journey

The following year, 1775, the second missionary journey through Central Pennsylvania touched what is now Mifflin County and Rev. Philip

Vickers Fithian, member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, in his journal gives a vivid picture of the life and customs of Central Pennsylvania as he describes his missionary journey in which he passed through the Kishacoquillas Valley in August 1775. His journal likewise contains many interesting descriptions of the country through which he passed (see the earlier chapters), and, most important of all to those interested in the early religious development of Mifflin County, he tells of two Sunday services he held during his 14-day stay in the Valley.

His first Sunday, August 13, was spent at the home of Squire William Brown, now Reedsville, where he found "a large society and it makes a good appearance." There the congregation, assembled to hear the missionary, gathered in a large barn and it was found too small, whereupon the congregation went "out into a fine meadow under a high western hill. We had shade and were comfortable."

There he found more people assembled than he had seen at any point on his journey. He seemed somewhat surprised at their dress and appearance, writing that there were "very many women, of all sizes and dressed in plain good taste, and several men who in their dress made as important a figure as I should wish to see in town." Squire Brown gave him 20 shillings and nine pence for the supply.

He found the people were well united in religious matters, "all Presbyterians, and new-light, primitive Presbyterians too—all except about eight sour unbrotherly Seceders, and one sociable, agreeable churchman (Episcopal), Mr. Landrum." At that time the Associate (Seceders) Presbyterian Church had a vacant congregation in the Kishacoquillas Valley, evidently the eight "sour Seceders" Fithian mentioned.

Fithian Finds People "Easily Pleased"

"They come generally out to sermons—which is very good," he observed, adding, "And give themselves the character of being easily pleased."

During his visit in the valley he tells of meeting a Mr. McFarquhar, a Scotch Presbyterian clergyman, who made the following statement, to which Fithian agreed: "I have discovered," he said, "since my arrival, that there are no slaves in America but the Presbyterian clergy." The meaning of the statement is somewhat ambiguous. The two had met earlier when Fithian visited the meeting of the presbytery at Upper West Conococheague (Mercersburg). Mr. McFarquhar mentioned above was the Rev. Colin McFarquhar, pastor of Donegal Presbyterian Church of "Witness Tree" fame.

The second Sunday followed a stay of several days at the home of John Campbell near present Belleville and Fithian speaks of John Campbell's brother-in-law, Robert Campbell, who was a Seceder, but who was, nevertheless, sociable and kind and attended sermons steadily. Another unnamed resident of the valley he described as a Covenanter, "a stiff, true blue, warm, obstinate Precisian."

Preaches in Brotherton Barn

On August 20 services were held in the barn of Robert Brotherton, near where the first West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church was later erected. His congregation there was small compared with that of the previous Sunday at Squire Brown's. That day he preached both sermons "without making use of any papers," however he complained of having "a sore head ache" which he blamed on the "feverish Dog-Day sun." He was given 20 shillings by John McDowell for the service at Brotherton's, having spent Saturday and Sunday nights at the McDowell home.

Thus the second Presbyterian missionary to visit Mifflin County gives a picture of the religious life of the people during that period. (Journal of Philip Vickers Fithian, pp. 92-121; Princeton University Press).

As has been pointed out above, Philip Fithian was not the first minister to visit the Kishacoquillas Valley, the first supplies having been sent by Donegal Presbytery to Squire Brown's in 1767 and to Robert Brotherton's, near Belleville, in 1774. At the April 1775 meeting of presbytery there were requests for supplies from both places in Kishacoquillas Valley

and four ministers were assigned to preach in the valley. The first was Rev. John Linn who was to preach on the third Sunday in July at Squire Brown's. The second supply assignment was the Rev. Joseph Rhea of Piney Creek (near Taneytown, Md.) who was to preach the third Sunday of August at Squire Brown's and the following Sunday at Hollidays Mill. Fithian in his journal mentions the fact that "Mr. Rhea is in the other Part of the Valley—Some however from that end are here" (Robert Brotherton's). He seemed to take pleasure in the fact that members of his congregation of the previous Sunday had seen fit to follow him to Brotherton's when they were having preaching by Rhea in their own part of the valley. He also mentions the fact that Miss Polly Landrum was at this service, calling her "the Village Toast, a young Lady lately from Maryland, of the English Church, young neat, exceedingly beautiful." He had met her father the previous Sunday. Mr. Landrum had been educated for the Episcopal ministry, but though he occasionally preached, apparently had no regular charge. He came from Maryland, and, after remaining in Kishacoquillas Valley for several years, he moved to Carlisle where Polly married William Holmes, according to the editors of Fithian's Journal.

Rev. Robert Cooper of Middle Spring Church (near Shippensburg) was assigned to supply the congregation at Brotherton's the third Sunday in September.

Fithian Loves the People, But "Cannot Fix"

It is interesting to note that Fithian commented in his journal: "I had several Proposals to stay in this Valley, & indeed I love the people, but yet I cannot fix—." However, at the next meeting of presbytery the two congregations asked for a supply to be sent them, "especially Mr. Linn." The following year they gave Linn a call which he did not accept.

First Church Building

Tradition as well as documentary evidence points to the year 1776 as marking the erection of the church at Andrew Bratton's, the first church to be erected in Mifflin County. Tradition says the church was erected before the Revolution, and, as the effects of the war had not yet reached the frontier in 1776, that year would have been thus considered. Donegal Presbytery minutes first mention Andrew Bratton's as being the location of preaching in the Juniata Valley when Rev. John Craighead of Rocky Spring Church (near Chambersburg) was sent to supply that congregation on the second Sunday in September 1776. Before that time supplies were sent to Hollidays Mill where McVeytown is now located; Bratton's was on the south side of the Juniata. The request for supplies at the April meeting of presbytery included a request for "a member to baptise and catechise."

Another indication is a bequest made by Hugh Harper in his will on record at Carlisle in which he bequeaths £5 "to William Bratton for the use of building a Presbyterian meeting house at the graveyard in Andrew Bratton's plantation." This would indicate that a meeting house had not yet been built at the time of the date of the will, March 15, 1774, but that such was being contemplated.

Second Church Erected

The year 1777 probably marks the erection of a church by the East Kishacoquillas congregation for at the April meeting Donegal Presbytery was notified that the people of East and West Kishacoquillas wanted to prepare a call for the Rev. John Linn to become their pastor. At the October meeting James Alexander, the commissioner to presbytery, presented a call to the Rev. John Linn, offering to pay him £150. He did not accept the call and a year later became pastor of Centre Church, Perry County, where he remained until 1820.

Another indication that a church had been erected by 1777 is found in the pension application of Captain Robert Means on file in the Pension Records, Washington, D. C., in which he relates that in August 1777 an alarm came to the meeting house on Sunday that Indians had made another appearance in Penns Valley

and that General Potter's family was in danger. He with a number of others armed themselves and marched to Potters Fort. The fact that it is certain there was no church near Lewistown and that the Means family, residing in Ferguson Valley, at tended the East Kishacoquillas Church, leaves but the one conclusion that East Kishacoquillas at that time had a meeting house.

The April 1778 meeting of presbytery received a "supplication" from the congregation of Derry on Juniata requesting a minister to be appointed "to settle among them for a year and for someone to ordain elders there."

One of the supplies assigned by Donegal Presbytery in 1778 at the April meeting was Rev. John McMillan, who was later one of the founders of Washington and Jefferson College. In his journal, published in the "Life and Work of Rev. John McMillan," are found the following entries for the year 1778:

	£	s
"The 5th Sabbath (of May) at Andrew Bratton's; Tuesday at the same place	3	10
Saturday at John Cambel's in Kishoquillas	3	10
The 1st Sabbath (of June) in Kishoquillas	3	
Monday at Brotherton's	1	10"

Again in 1779 the United Congregation of Kishacoquillas Valley presented a call to Rev. Dunlap, offering him as salary 580 bushels of wheat. As before, the call was not accepted and Rev. Dunlap went elsewhere. In the same year at the October presbytery the people of Derry on Juniata again asked for a member of presbytery to catechise. Their prayer was answered, Rev. Samuel Dougal of Upper Path Valley Church being sent to supply the pulpit and "to catechise some days in that congregation."

700-Bushel Wheat Salary

Donegal Presbytery minutes of April 11, 1781, record:

"A call directed to Mr. Mattw. Woods from the United congregations in Derry Township at Juniata was brought in and read together with a subscription paper amounting to 833 bushels of wheat. James Huston and James Lyons, commissioners from said congregation, informed Presbytery that these congregations would insure 700 bushels of wheat annually to Mr. Woods in case he would accept their call." Mr. Woods, however, went to be the pastor at Hanover that year. James Huston was the commissioner from the congregation near Lewistown and James Lyons from the congregation near McVeytown.

A Church for "Lower End of Derry"

The year 1781 also marks the probable time of the erection of a church for the congregation near Lewistown, for on May 24 of that year David Steel and his wife Mary conveyed to James Huston, Thomas Martin, John Gemmel and Robert Chambers, "trustees appointed to act for the members of the Presbyterian congregation of the lower end of Derry Township," two acres of land on the north side of the Juniata River in consideration of "fiveteen bushels of good, sufficient and merchantable wheat," with "the privilege of the use of the head of the spring of water arising on the northwest side of said tract or lot of ground, and also for liberty of a road from said tract to the present landing of him, said David Steel, and what other roads may be necessary for the other parts of said congregation to come from the great trading road to the said lot or tract of ground, Said roads to be laid out where they may be the most convenient to the people and do the least damage to him, said David Steel; likewise the said David Steel doth grant as much timber as shall be sufficient to build a house of worship and studyhouse on said tract or lot of ground, and to allow the privilege of firewood from time to time and at all times that may be necessary for the use of said house of worship and studyhouse."

This tract of land is on a farm between what is known as the Middle Road and the Juniata River in Granville Township, four miles south-west of Lewistown. It contains a large cemetery. The deed is recorded in Mifflin County Deed Book P, page 5. Tradition says that when Owen Owens purchased the farm in 1836 the ruins of the old church were still visible. Here services were held for

some years, but with the erection of Mifflin County and the establishment of the county seat, Lewistown soon became the centre of population. For a time it is likely that services were held in Lewistown as well as at the church on the Steel farm, for in 1792 a "supplication" was received by Carlisle Presbytery for supplies to be sent to preach in Lewistown while the first pastor was still serving Derry on Juniata. Charles Hardy's oft-quoted letter of 1791 from Lewistown to friends in England related the fact that "hear is no Methodes in this part, nor no other sort of worship but Prespeterens, and it is five miles to thar meeting," evidently referring to the church west of Lewistown on the Steel farm.

In 1782 both congregations on the Juniata had church buildings in all probability, and, their call to Rev. Matthew Woods not having been accepted the previous year, their "supplication" for supplies carried the request for "a probationer to continue with them as long as possible."

One of the supplies assigned by Donegal Presbytery at its October 1782 meeting was Rev. James Johnston, a soldier just out of service in the Continental Army, who was to preach at Derry on Juniata, and at both places in the Kishacoquillas Valley during the month of February 1783.

A Pastor Comes to the Kishacoquillas Valley

At the April meeting of Presbytery of Donegal held at Big Spring Church, April 9, 1783, commissioners from the united congregations of East and West Kishacoquillas presented a call to Rev. Mr. Johnston, accompanied by a subscription paper to the amount of £150. The call was signed by a long list of the prominent citizens of that day, a number of the signers residing south of Jacks Mountain.

At the meeting of Presbytery held April 13 and 14 at East Conococheague (Greencastle) Rev. Johnston accepted the call and presbytery agreed to meet near Squire Brown's in Kishacoquillas Valley for the ordination and installation of Rev. Johnston. He was directed to prepare a discourse on John 3: 19 as part of his trial for ordination.

August 19, 1784, Donegal Presbytery met at East Kishacoquillas and Rev. Johnston was accepted as a member of the presbytery. Rev. William Linn of Big Spring Church (Newville) preached a sermon previous to the ordination while Rev. Robert Cooper of Middle Spring Church (near Shippensburg) presided in the ordination and gave the charge.

First Minister a Revolutionary Veteran

Thus was installed the first minister to serve a congregation in what is now Mifflin County. The Rev. Johnston had been born on a farm near Shippensburg, September 25, 1754, and studied theology with Rev. Robert Cooper of Middle Spring Church who kept a Divinity Hall. He and a brother entered the Continental Army and he served in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Trenton and Valley Forge. While at Monmouth he was religiously impressed by the conduct of General Washington, whom he believed to have been protected by an all-wise Providence. Johnston was assisting to care for the wounded and saw a ball strike the ground at the feet of Washington and others struck parts of the house, but Washington remained without moving.

His Revolution experience included a providential escape from death by poisoning. His brother John, who had enlisted with him, was poisoned by eating bread prepared by New Jersey Tories. James was about to take the boat from Philadelphia to New Jersey but forgot something and ran back to get it, thereby missing the boat and thus escaped the poisoned bread by which his brother died.

He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Squire William Brown, and they had seven children, one son, William E. Johnston having written an account of his father's life which was published in Gibson's History of the Presbytery of Huntingdon, p. 221, from which the facts herewith given were taken. He resigned from the pastorate of the West Kishacoquillas Church in 1796, but remained pastor

of East Kishacoquillas in connection with Little Valley until his death in 1820. He died at his home near Reedsville and is buried in the Brick Church Cemetery near Reedsville.

At the October 1784 meeting of presbytery, the minutes record: "The revd. Matthew Stephen an ordained minister, amply recommended by the Presbytery of Letterkenny, Ireland, applied for admission as a member of this Presbytery." He was admitted and at the same session of presbytery assigned to supply the first and second Sundays of November at Derry on Juniata, apparently the designation given the two congregations in the Juniata Valley. Mr. Stephen, or Stephens as the name was usually spelled in later years, had come to this country in 1784 with his wife Jane and their son, William, who had been born in Ireland, January 1, 1783. Mr. Stephen was a native of County Derry, Ireland.

Stephens Comes to Derry and Wayne

At the April 1785 meeting of Donegal Presbytery a call was presented from the "congregations in Derry and Wayne townships on Juniata to Revd. Matthew Stephen." The call was occompanied by a subscription paper amounting to £173: 18s :3d and the congregations promised to pay him £150 as a salary. That he immediately accepted the call is indicated from the fact that when Carlisle Presbytery was formed from part of Donegal Presbytery later in the same year he was listed as the pastor of Derry and Wayne. He settled on his new pastorate immediately and on Feb. 28, 1786, he purchased 300 acres of land in Bratton Township. His name appears on the assessment rolls of that year for first time. When the General Assembly was constituted in 1789 he was mentioned as the pastor of Derry and Wayne, and continued until 1796 when he went to Shavers Creek Church where he served until 1810 when he purchased a farm at Manor Hill. There he lived until his death in 1825. He is buried in the cemetery of the Manor Hill church.

West Kishacoquillas Church Erected

At the sesqui-centennial of the West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church a handsome granite marker was erected at the site of the first church building and near the Brotherton farm where early preaching services were held. The marker contains in part the following inscription: "To worship Almighty God, pioneer settlers, who began preaching services in 1775, erected on this site the first West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Meeting House 1789." Later research has revealed the fact that the first preaching services were held in that vicinity in 1774 instead of 1775.

However it gives the date of the erection of the first log church building. Apparently the congregation did not own the land until the death of Robert Brotherton's daughter Margaret in 1799 when in her will she bequeathed the land now occupied by the cemetery "to the use of the meeting house and Presbyterian congregation for a burying ground and meeting house forever." She had been willed one-half of her father's plantation at his death in 1792. The first building was a log structure which was completed September 19, 1789, this the fourth church building in the county being finished on the day Mifflin County was founded by the passage of the act by the assembly erecting the county.

Much of the information concerning the Presbyterian congregations given in this history was gleaned from original sources, one of which was the minutes of Donegal Presbytery, now in the possession of the Department of History of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. However, the authors are greatly indebted for facts obtained from the histories of the four churches written by the following authors: Rev. Andrew H. Parker, East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church, 1895; Rev. Frederick E. Andrews, McVeytown Presbyterian Church, 1933; James F. Wills, West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church, 1934; J. Martin Stroup. The Presbyterian Congregation of Lewistown, 1935.

Scotch-Irish in Large Proportion

The authors have no apologies to make for devoting such a large proportion of this chapter on the early

religious development of the county to the history of four Presbyterian congregations. The early settlers were Scotch-Irish in such a large proportion that it was not until after the Revolution that enough settlers of other origins had established themselves here to make possible the establishment of churches of other denominations and it is doubtful if there were any formal organizations of other denominations until after the formation of the county.

German Settlers Follow

Church of the Brethren (Dunkard or German Baptist) authors claim that the Lewistown or Dry Valley congregation of their church was organized in 1781 but no substantiating documentary proof has been found to indicate that previous to 1789 there was any formal organization in the county. It is true that in the 1780's a number of German settlers of this faith established homes in the county. The History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, p.541, says that the first preachers were Henry Nearhoof of Aughwick and Peter Shellenberger of Lost Creek, both residing outside of the present limits of Mifflin County. The same history names the early resident ministers but none of the names appear on assessment records prior to 1789.

The History of the Middle District of the Church of the Brethren, 1925, names John Swigart as having come from Berks County in 1792 to be the first resident minister. The same history names a member of the denomination, George Rothrock, whose daughter, Susannah, who married a Hanawalt, was baptized in 1794 as one of the first persons admitted into the church in the county. This history also quotes from "Record of the Faith" by Howard Miller, 1882, to the effect that Dry Valley Congregation, properly called Lewistown, was organized in 1781 with 10 members. Members of the Church of the Brethren were coming into the county in considerable numbers during the period immediately following the Revolution and beyond a doubt they were as zealous as the Scotch-Irish in establishing their churches. However, if it was 1794 before the first member was admitted to the church by baptism it seems unlikely that there was a formal church organization during the period this history covers.

The coming of the German settler, who followed closely the Scotch-Irish, means the establishment of the Lutheran Church as well as the Brethren denomination. However, it seems improbable that there was a formal organization of Lutherans before 1789 as Rev. J. M. Reimensnyder, former pastor of St. Johns Lutheran Church, Lewistown, and now living retired at Milton, is authority for the statement that the first Lutheran preaching in Lewistown was by a Rev. Fisher in the old log jail and court house building in 1796.

Charles Hardy, called the first Methodist in Lewistown, in his letter in 1791 states: "hear is no Methodes in these parts." However, the year following a Methodist circuit rider came through Mifflin County, Rev. William Colbert, who, like Beatty and Fithian kept a journal which gives illuminating facts regarding the early religious development as well as an interesting account of the hardships of the early circuit riders.

A Circuit Rider's Journal

He entered Mifflin County over the same route as Fithian, from Potter's in Centre County into the east end of Kishacoquillas Valley and found the road apparently as bad as had Fithian, for he writes as of May 31, 1792: "I have rode over one of the worst roads today I have ever seen; I was afraid sometimes I should break my horses's legs going over the mountains and stone, and late in the afternoon got to Henry Collins' in Chishshehockley Valley. (Collins lived in Ferguson Valley and not in what is now known as Kishacoquillas Valley which is what Colbert was trying to spell.)

The journal entries for the next four days follow:

"June 1: I preached at Henry Collins on Matt. 18 and 3rd. While I was speaking, my horse that had been about the door all morning went into the woods and I thought no more about him till after dinner when I wanted to cross the Hedeous Mt.,

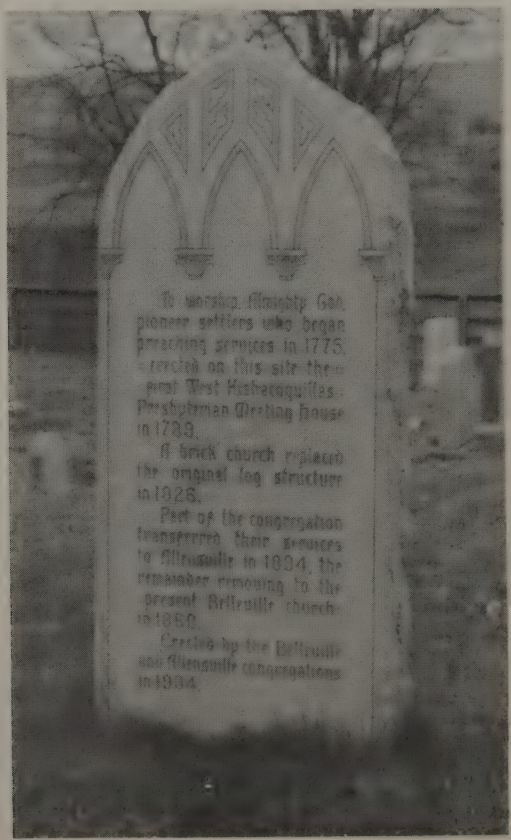
called the Shade mt., and go to Henry Moore's, but he was not to be found, myself a stranger in a wooden country with my saddle, saddle bags and a great coat with but a few shillings, more than hundred miles from home, which made me feel very unhappy, and what added to my distress, was, the old man told me it was a thousand to one if I ever got my horse again, but on my offering a reward of six dollars to any one that would bring me my horse (expecting I could borrow the money) a young man, one of the Collins' sons, said if he had a creature he would get him for me before tomorrow night, which I thought very strange after the father had said that it was a thousand to one if I ever got him again. I spent the night in uneasiness as Collins after running about in the woods in search of my horse, and early in the morning on

"Saturday, June 2, I set off with my things on a poor little creature that Collins led and I drove after to the foot of Shade Mt., where one Wood lived and was kind enough to lend me a horse to go over the mt., with a boy and another horse who took me to Henry Moores.

"Sunday, June 3 I preached at Henry Moores Meeting House on Matt. 22 & 24. (Moore lived near Mifflintown.)

"Monday. June 4 I set out after my horse up the Juniata narrows while he was brought to me over the Shade mt. I met a man, who informed me he was found, and on his word I returned back and soon met Collins' son with my horse coming after me. By the losing of my horse for a time I have been kept from Fettermans'."

(From a copy in the possession of Central Pennsylvania Conference Methodist Historical Society, Williamsport.)



CHAPTER 8—EARLY FAMILIES

The cheerfu' supper done, wi' serious face,
They, round the ingle, form a circle wide;
The sire turns o'er, wi' patriarchal grace,
The big ha'-Bible, ance his father's pride.

From The Cotter's Saturday Night
By Robert Burns.

In writing an account of Mifflin County's early families no use of traditional material has been made. All accounts are based on documentary evidence at present in the hands of the authors. The absence of any particular family simply indicates that there are no data available in the early records.

The study of the tax lists from 1767 to 1789 shows the names of 522 families listed, from Abbott to Young. Of these, the names that appear the most often are: Brown, Criswell, Johnston, Alexander, Moore, Bratton, Mitchell, Graham, Dickson, Wilson, Campbell, Martin, and Thompson. Of the 522 families, 45 appearing before 1770 were still on the tax lists in 1789. These are: Alexander, Armstrong, Baum, Bell, Bratton, Brown, Buchanan, Carmichael, Carson, Crawford, Criswell, Davis, Dickson, Ferguson, Galloway, Gemmell, Graham, Hall, Hamilton, Holliday, Holt, Howard, Hunter, Johnston, Jones, Jordan, Junkin, Lyon, McCartney, McDonald, McDowell, McKee, McKinstry, McMullen, Magill, Mahan, Martin, Mitchell, Moore, Nugent, Reed, Ross, Stewart, Wakefield, Williams. Only six individuals appear in both 1767 and 1789: John Brown, John Carmichael, Robert Crawford, Samuel Holliday, Daniel Jones, Alexander McKinstry.

From the land records and tax lists fifteen individuals have been found who were the first to improve land in their section of the county and who, or their children, were still occupying the land when Mifflin County was formed. Although data are available on many other men, none was as early to settle premanently as these. In most cases some of their descendants still live in the county.

In what was Armagh Township in 1789 there are five men on the list of early settlers: James Alexander of Paxton, James Alexander of Nottingham, William Brown, John McDowell, and James Reed.

In what was Derry in 1789 there are: Arthur Buchanan, William Buchanan, Thomas Holt, Daniel Jones, Everhart Martin.

The pioneers in what was Wayne in 1789 are : Andrew Bratton, Daniel Carmichael, James Criswell, Samuel Holliday, Matthew Wakefield.

Early Settlers in Kishacoquillas Valley

James Alexander of Paxton Township, Lancaster County, settled in what is now Armagh Township about 1754, for he had an improvement in February 1755 on the tract now known as Alexander Caverns. He had a brother, George, and possibly William and John were brothers. These four warranted land the same day. James Alexander died in 1778, leaving wife, Elizabeth, and minor children, John, James, Jonathan, Mary, Elizabeth, and Martha. In his will he mentions land in the Carolinas.

James Alexander of Nottingham Township, Chester County, settled in what is now Union Township about 1754, for he had a cabin in February 1755. He was a son of John, Sr., and Margaret (Glasson) Alexander who migrated from County Armagh, Ireland, in 1736. James had brothers, Hugh of Perry County and John, Jr. of Franklin County. All three brothers and the father applied for land in the Kishacoquillas Valley. Hugh's application was never returned. James Alexander was a brother-in-law of John McDowell. They both married daughters of Robert Reed of Middleton Township. James was born 1726, married Rosanna Reed 1762, died 1786 or 1787. His children were: Jane, Robert, Elizabeth, John, James,

Hugh, Joseph, Rachel, William Brown, Rosanna, Reed.

William Brown settled in what is now Union Township about 1755, for on his 1762 warrant he paid rent from March 1, 1755. He later removed to Brown Township, Reedsville. It is not certain whether he came from Cumberland or Chester County. He had a brother, Alexander, who died in the fall of 1789. James Reed was said to be a half-brother. William Brown operated the first grist mill in the Kishacoquillas Valley. Fithian stopped at Brown's on his missionary tour. Brown was a squire under King George III. In 1767 he married Mary Scott, who was born Dec. 1743, died May 19, 1815. William was born March 1737 and died Sept. 14, 1825. His children were: Elizabeth, Mary, John (died in N. C.), Martha, Nancy, William, Sallie.

John McDowell settled in what is now Menno Township about 1761 on land bought from the Torrentines. He was a son of John and Jean McDowell of Antrim Township. John McDowell, Sr. operated a grist mill. He died in 1770. His children were: John, Thomas, Joseph, Sarah. John, Jr. was born 1734, and died 1809. About 1769 he married Elizabeth Reed, born 1747, died 1812, a daughter of Robert Reed. Their children were: Robert, William, James, John, Elizabeth, Jane, Joseph, Samuel, Jonathan, Nancy.

James Reed's early settlement was similar to that of Brown's. The two names have always been coupled. James was born 1738, died 1803. In the 1760's he married Jane Ogleby of Carlisle and had eleven children: James, William, Sarah, Polly, Thomas, Andrew, Joseph, Alexander, John, Jean, Abner.

Buchanans and Holts Settle Near Lewistown

Arthur Buchanan, Sr. settled at the mouth of Kishacoquillas Creek about 1754. He is first mentioned in Arthur Forster's application in February 1755. His settlement must have been brief, for when the land was warranted by his widow in 1762, rent was paid from 1760. Arthur Buchanan was assessed in Middleton Township 1751, and Carlisle 1753. When he died in Carlisle, Sept. 1760, he owned a house and lot on East High Street. On July 22, 1738 he married Dorcas Holt, a widow, born 1711, died January 20, 1804. She may have been his second wife. Their children were three sons and a daughter, all minors in 1760. One of the sons was Arthur, Jr., who became a colonel in the Revolution. Thomas Holt was a son of Dorcas by her first marriage. Early land tracts were granted to Dorcas, Arthur, Jr., Armstrong, Jane, James, Robert, and William Buchanan. The relationships have not been determined, except that William and Armstrong were brothers. Arthur, Sr. came originally from Lancaster County. Dorcas Buchanan was the first woman taxed in Mifflin County.

William Buchanan, mentioned above, settled on land in South Granville Township in 1760. He was born 1742 and died December 22, 1767, leaving sons, Arthur and John, and a widow Margaret, who later married Robert Chambers.

Thomas Holt, son of Dorcas Holt, settled in north Granville Township in 1760. In 1766 he was living on the Fort Granville tract. He is listed as a "brassfounder" and was assessed in Carlisle in 1753. He married Elizabeth Mitchell in Lancaster February 3, 1756. When he died in 1778 he owned a house in Carlisle. His children were: John, William, Elizabeth, Thomas, Mary, Jane, Dorcas, Eleanor, James.

Daniel Jones settled in south Granville Township in 1755, when he bought land from Robert Jones. He operated a grist mill at an early date. When he died in 1801 he left widow Susanna, and children, William, Rebecca, Sarah, Ann, Edward, Isaiah, Daniel.

Everhart Martin settled in Derry Township about 1755, when he first warranted land. He was of German or Hollandish origin. He died in 1784 leaving widow, Jacobenea Elizabeth, and children: Christopher, Barbara, Mary, Elizabeth, Rachel.

Pioneers in Bratton, Oliver and Wayne

Andrew Bratton settled in what is now Bratton Township about 1754, for in February 1755 his land had

been improved. He was assessed in Hamilton Township, 1752, and before that probably came from Chester County. Beatty mentions him in his journal. He died about 1780 leaving William and John. His wife Nancy Holliday, was a sister of Samuel Holliday. Other early Bratton settlers who were probably brothers or cousins of Andrew were George, Sr., James, Sr., William, Sr., John.

Daniel Carmichael setled in north Wayne Township in 1762 according to the land records. He died in the service of his country in the winter of 1777-78. His wife was Mary, a daughter of James Eaton of Hamilton Township. Their children, James, Duncan, Margaret, Abigail, Isabel, Mary were all minors in 1778. Daniel had a brother-in-law, John White, of Lurgan Township, a brother, James of Dublin Township, and a brother, John. John Carmichael settled in north Wayne in 1760. In 1792 or 1793 he migrated to Washington County, Tennessee, where he died in 1799.

The Criswell (or Carswell) family was very numerous. The first to settle was James, who appeared in Bratton Township in 1760. His brother-in-law was John Beatty. James died in 1786 leaving six children: John, Michael, Mary, Jane, Elizabeth, Susannah. There were two groups of Criswells. In Wayne Township the names James, John, Michael, and Robert appear; in Armagh Township, the names Benjamin, Elijah, Elisha, James, and Robert. The Criswells seem to have originated in Chester County.

Samuel Holliday settled in Oliver Township (McVeytown) in 1763. He operated the first grist mill in Mifflin County. Beatty preached at his mill in 1766. Samuel was a son of John Holliday, who died in Peters Township, 1770. John, Sr., had originally come from Lancaster County. His children were: William, Samuel, John, Adam, Joseph, Marydee, Frances, Nancy (Bratton). Samuel died in 1807 leaving a widow, Sarah, and children, John, James, Adam, Michael, Samuel, Rebecca, Jane.

Matthew Wakefield settled in Oliver Township in 1763. He sold his land in 1787, but is said to have died in Mifflin County a few years later. He originally came from Philadelphia. His wife was named Bridget; John was a son.

The McNitt and Taylor families did not appear on the tax lists until 1770, but they took up land in Kishacoquillas Valley in 1755. Robert McNitt, Sr., probably lived in Cumberland County. He took up land in 1755, but died some time before 1767. He had five sons: Alexander, died about 1795; William, died 1812; James, went West; Robert, died 1797; John, born 1739, died 1822. All except James lived in the Kishacoquillas Valley.

Robert Taylor, Sr., died on Swatara Creek, Derry Township, Dauphin County, before 1761. He took up land in Kishacoquillas Valley in 1755. He had five sons: Henry, born 1733, died 1813; William, died 1781; Robert, lived in Juniata and Erie Counties; John, went to Augusta County, Virginia; Matthew, born 1742, died 1823. Henry, William, and Matthew lived in the Kishacoquillas Valley. There were four daughters: Catherine, Jane, Elizabeth, and Ann.

CHAPTER 9—THE NEW COUNTY; MAPS, Roads, Etc.

Population of Mifflin County and Lewistown, 1755 to 1940 (estimates 1755 to 1790)

	Mifflin County	Lewistown
1755	40	
1760	20	
1770	320	
1780	1,400	
1790	2,100	
1800	4,817*	523
1810	5,736*	474
1820	8,059*	773
1830	12,631*	1,479
1840	13,092	2,058
1850	14,980	2,733
1860	16,340	2,638
1870	17,508	2,737
1880	19,577	3,222
1890	19,996	4,071
1900	23,160	4,920
1910	27,785	8,166
1920	31,439	9,849
1930	40,335	13,357
1940	42,993	13,017

*Obtained from Bureau of Census township figures.

In 1790 the males above 16 were counted in order to determine how many could bear arms. The state of Pennsylvania in 1780 had passed an act gradually emancipating the slaves. Only 17 families had slaves according to the 1790 Census. In Kishacoquillas Valley are listed: William Neely, 1; Rev. James Johnston, 1; William Brown, Esq., 4; James Reed, 1; John Campbell, 1; John Culbertson, 1; Edmund Richardson, 1; William McNitt, 1; Robert Nelson, 1; Dr. James Armstrong, 2. In the rest of the county: Thomas Wilson, 2; Andrew Gregg, 1; William King, 1; John Carmichael, 3; John Lyon, 1; William Smith, 6; Samuel Edmiston, 5. In 1790 probably 75% of the population were Scotch-Irish in origin; the remainder were German, English, or Welsh.

In 1790 when the first census was taken, there were only 10 post offices in Pennsylvania; the nearest to Mifflin County were Carlisle, Shippensburg, Chambersburg, Bedford. The section of Pennsylvania northwest of Mifflin County was just then being settled. Only 4 of Pennsylvania's 23 newspapers were dailies. The nearest were the "Carlisle Gazette and the Western Repository of Knowledge," the "Western Advertiser and Chambersburg Weekly," and "The Oracle of Dauphin" (Harrisburg).

Early Maps

The first map to show anything of interest in what is now Mifflin County was the Lewis Evans map of 1749. Shade Mountain, the Juniata River, Jacks and Kishacoquillas Creeks and the Indian village, "Kishequokeles," are clearly marked.

In 1759 Nicholas Scull made a map of Pennsylvania which shows Fort Granville about 1.9 miles above the mouth of Kishacoquillas Creek. Another map by W. Scull in 1770 locates Jacks Mountain, "Kikicocolas" Valley and Long Hollow.

It was Reading Howell's 1792 map of Pennsylvania that first showed Mifflin County in detail: Townships, roads, mountains, streams, mills, churches and other important places.

Another map, which, while it was never published, is in existence and photostatic copies have been made of this rather crude drawing.

It was made in 1756 by Captain George Croghan at the time he was building Fort Granville and evidently turned in with his report to the provincial authorities to show

where he had located the fort. A photo copy of this map is on display at the Mifflin County Historical Society's library-museum. It shows the country as far north as present Sunbury and down along the Susquehanna to Wrightsville, also the country between Carlisle, Cumberland County seat, and the fort, naming all the mountain ranges and streams. The original is in possession of Pennsylvania Historical Society at Philadelphia.

Mifflin County Boundaries

When the land comprising Mifflin County was purchased from the Indians in 1754, it was made a part of Cumberland County. The formation of Bedford in 1771, Northumberland in 1772 and Huntingdon in 1787 wrought changes in the Cumberland County boundaries. Although Mifflin County was formed in 1789, its boundary lines have been changed a number of times since then. The principal changes were in 1800 when Centre and in 1831 when Juniata County was formed.

The present boundary of Mifflin County has been unchanged since 1834. The boundary is a natural one for the most part—being made up of mountains, watersheds and streams. Northeast Decatur and Eastern Armagh Township were in Northumberland County 1772 to 1812, when they were added to Mifflin. A portion of Armagh near Milroy was in Northumberland 1772 to 1789. A part of Wayne Township south of the Juniata River was a part of Bedford and Huntingdon from 1771 to 1834, when it was returned to Mifflin. A slight change in this line had been made in 1792.

The present boundary of Mifflin County was fixed in the acts of 1771, 1772, 1779, 1800, 1812, 1831, 1834. At the time of the formation of the county in 1789 no new lines were surveyed which are now in use. The oldest part of Mifflin County boundary is the Juniata River part of the Huntingdon County line which was set with the formation of Bedford in 1771. The small part of the eastern boundary (near McClure) which follows a southeast course was laid out in 1772 when Northumberland was formed. The line from the Juniata River along Jacks Mountain and across Kishacoquillas Valley to Stone Mountain, thence to the Centre County line was defined in 1779, although this was in dispute for over 100 years. The western part of Kishacoquillas Valley was in Cumberland County until 1779, when it was transferred to Bedford.

The line between Centre and Mifflin was laid in 1800 and the eastern boundary of Mifflin County has been unchanged since 1819. A small part of Union and Snyder was in Mifflin from 1812 to 1819. Small changes were made in the Huntingdon County line at the Juniata River in 1812 and 1834. In the former a small piece was given to Huntingdon County and in the latter a section added to Mifflin. Of course, the last big change was the formation of Juniata in 1831. Since 1834 then the boundary line of Mifflin County has not been changed. Parts of the present boundary were laid out as early as 1771.

Early Roads

Early records tell of two early paths or roads in use before the settlers came. An early Indian path known as the "Juniata Path" followed the Juniata River from Lewistown to Mount Union. It was used by the early traders and was called the "Traders Path" in the early land grants. Evidently it carried an increasing traffic, for a little later it was called the "Traders Road" or the "Great Road."

Another Indian path followed Jacks Creek from Lewistown to Middle Creek (Snyder County)—the "War Path" or "Warriors Path." It was also called "Moghanoy Road." Middle Creek was once known as Moghanoy (or Mahanoy) Creek. These early paths were not laid out by surveyors, but were made by decades of Indian travel.

The court records of Cumberland County tell of five roads laid out before September, 1789, when Mifflin County was formed. A peti-

tion for a sixth was never acted on. Early roads were of varied width and the names by which they were called tell of progressive improvements. First "bridle," "wagon," then "carriage" roads were laid out.

Although the first settlements in Mifflin County were made in 1754, Indian wars prevented them from being permanent until 1765. The first petition for a road in Mifflin County was in August, 1767, when a road was desired from Shermans Valley (Perry County) to William Brown's (Reedsville). The survey of this road was reported back to court in April, 1768. It followed the road of today through the Narrows to Lewistown, Electric Avenue, Burnham, Yeagertown and Reedsville. In October, 1769, a road was sought from the mouth of the Aughwick to the mouth of the Kishacoquillas (from near Mount Union to present Lewistown). The petition was not granted—apparently the traders' road was thought adequate.

In October, 1771, a petition was presented for a road in Armagh Township. The next April this road was laid out. It started at Logans Gap, northeast of Siglerville in the Seven Mountains, ran through Siglerville, Naginey, Reedsville, along Kishacoquillas Creek to Belleville, then directly to Allensville. This gave the Kishacoquillas Valley settlers a road through most of the valley connecting at Reedsville with the road to Shermans Valley.

In 1776 (petition January, report July) another road in Kishacoquillas Valley was laid out starting at Brown's Mill (Reedsville) and running through the centre of the valley to Belleville, Allensville, and ending at the Bedford County (now Huntingdon County) line in the gap near Mill Creek. This duplicated the 1772 road a little but followed a different route between Reedsville and Belleville, keeping nearer the centre of the valley.

In April, 1788, a road (asked for in January) was laid out from Sandfords Mill (Yeagertown) through Vira, Alfarata, Wagner to the Northumberland County line (near McClure).

In January, 1789, a road (petition October, 1788) was laid out across Kishacoquillas Valley, starting at Reedsville, where it joined the road from Old Town (Lewistown) to Brown's Mill, running to Milroy, following the course of the present highway, from Milroy due north to a gap in the Seven Mountains near the Northumberland County (now Centre County) line. This road is of interest because it passed the East Kishacoquillas Meeting House —the first mention of the meeting house in the records. Mifflin County's present network of roads started then with Indian paths and when the county was formed in 1789 roads ran east and west in both valleys and north from Old Town to Penns Valley.

An important "highway" in early days was the Juniata River. Indians and early settlers traveled by canoe. After the Revolution freight was carried down the river by "arks." The canal and later the railroad revolutionized travel in the 19th Century.

Charles Hardy's Letter

The best description of Mifflin County at the time of its founding is given in a letter written by Charles Hardy (History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, page 493). The letter follows:

Dear Mam: I take this oportunity of a Quainting you of my present hilth and weel fair for which I have reason to prais the Lord and Likewise the defrent seaings of life that I have Goone through Since I come to this Country. I wrought the first 9 months through the summer and winter, and in March I Went out to the Back Country, 160 miles from Philadelphia, whear thaar is a new place Bilding by the name of Lewes Town, Mifflin County, and as this County is but new laad out. all county business is satled and courts helde in this place, and on the 22th of October I purtched a Lott and Hous, not finished, which cost me 60 pound, and 20 pounds mor will

finish it which will Rent for 15 pounds per year. And 19th of January I purtches an improvement which is vacant Lands, on which is a Dwelling hous and Barn, Stablen, right Good Spring and 14 ackres of Cleared Land, and I have returned Back to Philadelpia to take a Ded out of the Land Ofes for 150 ackres of saad Lands, the improvement I pay 35 pounds, and the warent at Land Ofes as 2 pound 10 shillings per hundred. and 1 pound 10 shill ings the Sirvey and Clarkes fees, 1 pound 10 shillings all per hundred. which, in all, will cost be betwext 40 and 50 pounds. This is the best part of the country I have Ever seen for industrius people of Every Trade. Carpenters and Masons 7s. 6d. per day, Labrers 5s. per day, and everything is plentiful, the best of Wheat 4s. pir bushel, Rie 3s. this currency, Inden corn and buckwheat in proportion. Beef, Mutton and Bacon at 3d. per pound. This is a fearful Country for wild creatures, Such as Dears, Bars, Wolves and Panters, the Dears meet yousd for Beef or venison. and Bears meet Good Bacon. Fishes and Folls in Great plenty. This is a fine Country for Roots and Vegtales. I shall send you a smal account of them Coowcumbers, Water Melens, Squashes and Pompcans, with a variety of Beanes, sich as you have none in England, with many others too tedis to Name. Al rises from the Ground With out much troble and comes to Great pirfestion.

Here is a variety of fish and fowls too tedious to name in great plenty, cheap.

[I have had the pleasure of reading your welcome letter, dated August 19th, which came to my brother John's, which has given me great satisfaction to heard from you and all friends, but more particularly you beloved Methodists] with whome I hav many times being Feelingly and Sensible Blessed, both in public and privet convarse [with Henry Hunter and you, but] in which I am in sum measure deprived of, as hear is no Methodes in this part. nor no other sort of worship but Prespeterns, and it is 5 miles to thear meeting. this causes me to re flect on my Own Self for leaving the parts Whear I had the hapness of asembling amongst a people that I beleave truly worships God. it cases many Reasnings in my own mind when I think of the blessings in yeares past I received in publick and privet convarse, but many times I feel that the Lord preaches to my sowl in privet when I poor out my Speetir before him, but I shall endeaver to pravail with the preachers to come to Lewistown.

The letter as printed here was taken from the history mentioned above with the exception of two omissions which are inserted within brackets [ ]. These insertions were taken from a version of the letter printed in The Lewistown Gazette of September 3, 1873, in which there was evidently considerable revision in spelling and punctuation from the original.

According to Mifflin County Deed Book A, page 334, John McElhinney, "taylor," sold to Charles Hardy. "yoeman of Lewis Town," Lot No. 17 on November 14, 1792. This lot was located on the corner of South Brown and Market Streets and is the present site of Malta Temple.

APPENDIX

PRINCIPAL SOURCES USED

Original Records:

Unpublished

Tax Lists 1767-1789, Cumberland Co., Carlisle, Penna.
Land Records, Dept. of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg, Penna.
Pension Records, Veteran's Administration, Washington, D. C.
Donegal Presbytery Records, Presbyterian Church, Dept. of History, Philadelphia, Penna.
Court Records of Cumberland County, Penna.
Court Records of Mifflin County, Penna.

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Colonial Records of Penna.
Penna. Archives.
Charles Beatty: The Journal of a Two Month's Tour in America (London 1768).
Philip Vickers Fithian: Journal, 1775-1776 (Princeton University Press 1934).
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Mifflin County Histories

I. D. Rupp: History and Topography of Mifflin . . . (and other) . . . Counties, Penna. (Lancaster 1847).
U. J. Jones: History of the Early Settlement of the Juniata Valley (Philadelphia 1856).
Joseph Cochran: History of Mifflin County (Harrisburg 1879).
History of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys (Philadelphia 1886).
Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley (Chambersburg 1897).
A History of the Juniata Valley and its People (New York 1913).
History of the Juniata Valley (Harrisburg 1936).

Related Works

Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania (Harrisburg 1896 and 1916).
Sherman Day: Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania. (Philadelphia 1843).
C. Hale Sipe: The Indian Wars of Penna. (Harrisburg 1929).
George P. Donehoo: Pennsylvania. A History (New York 1926).
Amédée Gosselin: Notes sur la famille Coulon de Villiers (Lévis 1906).

CHRONOLOGY OF MIFFLIN COUNTY

1720	about	Shawnees settle at Ohesson under Kishacoquillas.
1731	Oct. 29	LeTort and Davenport report Ohesson on Juniata.
1739	Aug. 1	Kishacoquillas signs treaty at Philadelphia.
1744	Apr. 9	Armstrong, a trader, killed.
1749		Evans' map shows Indian town at mouth of Kishacoquillas.
1754	July or Aug.	Death of Kishacoquillas near Sunbury.
	July 4	Washington's engagement at Fort Necessity. (French and Indian War begins).
	July 6	Mifflin County land purchased from Indians at Albany.
	late summer	First settlers in Kishacoquillas Valley and Juniata Valley.
1755	Feb. 3	First land warrants.
	May	Indians drive off Kishacoquillas Valley settlers.
	July 9	Braddock defeated in western Penna.
	Oct.	Massacres begin on Penn's Creek and in Great Cove.
	Dec. 17	Erection of Fort Granville ordered.
1756	Jan. 29	Ft. Granville completed and staffed with 75 men.
	Mar. 31	Indians appear before Ft. Granville.
	Apr. 19	Situation bad at Ft. Granville.
	July 22	Indians appear at Ft. Granville.
	July 30	French and Indians capture and burn Ft. Granville.
	Sept. 8	Armstrong attacks Kittanning.
1758	Oct.	Easton peace council.
	Nov.	Forbes occupies Ft. Duquesne (French and Indian War ends).
1760		First settlers return.
1762		Warrants again issued.
1763		Pontiac's War begins.
	July 10	Indians attack Tuscarora Valley.
	Aug. 5	Bouquet defeats Indians at Bushy Run.
1764	Nov.	Indians in Ohio vanquished by Bouquet (Pontiac's War ends).
1765		Settlers again return.
	Mar. 22	Stamp Act passed.
1766-71		Logan in Kishacoquillas Valley
1766	Mar. 18.	Stamp Act repealed.
	Aug. 25-28	Beatty's missionary tour.
	Aug. 26	First preaching in Mifflin Co. by Beatty at Holliday's Mill (McVeytown).
1767		First tax lists of Mifflin Co. inhabitants (Fermanagh).
	July	Petition for Derry Township.
	July	Petition for carriage road to Kishacoquillas Valley from Shermans Valley.
	Nov. 15	First preaching in Kishacoquillas Valley by Cooper at Brown's (Reedsville).
1768		First Derry Twp. tax lists.
1769		First grist mill assessed—Holliday's.
		Petition for bridle path—mouth of Kishacoquillas to mouth of Aughwick.
1770	Jan.	Armagh Township formed.
	Mar. 5	Boston Massacre.
1771	Oct.	Petition for road from Armagh Township to Penn's Valley.

1773		First schoolmaster (John Johnston) assessed.
	July 25	First preaching by Huey at Armstrong's (now Lewistown).
	Dec. 16	Boston Tea Party.
1774		Armagh inhabitants 355; Derry 412.
	summer	First preaching in West Kishacoquillas (now Belleville) by Hoge.
1775		First grist mill in Kishacoquillas Valley assessed — Brown's.
	April 18	Battle of Lexington (Revolution begins).
	June 26	Town of Derry first mentioned.
	July	Two Mifflin County men enlist in Continental Line.
	Aug. 8-21	Fithian in Kishacoquillas Valley on missionary tour.
	Dec. 31	Assault on Quebec, American forces fail.
1776	Jan.	First company of Mifflin Co. men sent to Continental Line.
	July 4	Declaration of Independence.
	July 8	First elections.
	Aug.	McElhatton takes company to New York.
	Dec.	Adams takes company to New Jersey.
1777	Jan.	Buchanan takes company to New Jersey.
	Jan. 3	Battle of Princeton.
	June 19	Indian massacre at Standing Stone (Huntingdon).
	June	Buchanan marches company against the Indians.
	July 31	Fifth Battalion of militia organized.
	Sept. 11	Americans defeated at Brandywine; Philadelphia taken two weeks later.
1778	May	Critical period in Central Pennsylvania.
	June	Indians seen in Kishacoquillas Valley.
	June 25	Battle of Monmouth; British driven back to New York.
	July 3-4	Wyoming Massacre.
1779	July	Indians seen in Kishacoquillas Valley.
1780	May 10	Militia reorganized as Eighth Battalion.
1781	June 3	Frankstown scouts murdered.
	Oct. 19	Cornwallis surrenders.
1782	May	George Sigler, Jr., captured.
	July	Formation of Wayne Township.
	Sept.	Petition for new county.
1783	Mar.	Militia disbanded.
	Apr. 9	James Johnston called as pastor in Kishacoquillas Valley.
	Sept.	Peace treaty signed with England.
1784	Aug. 19	Johnston installed at Presbytery meeting in Kishacoquillas Valley.
1785	Mar.	Petition for a new county.
	Apr.	Matthew Stephen called to Derry and Wayne on Juniata.
1786	Aug.	Petition from Wayne and Derry for tax exemption.
1787	Feb.	Petition for inclusion in Huntingdon County.
1788	Feb.	Petition for new county.
	Aug.	Account of Old Town.
1789	Feb. and Mar.	Petitions for new county.
	Mar. 21	Bill erecting new county passed second reading in Assembly.
	Sept. 19	Mifflin County formed.
	Oct. 24	George Wilson commissioned first Sheriff of Mifflin County.
	Dec. 8	First session of Mifflin County Court in house of Arthur Buchanan.

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